

Hafa Adai!

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Probe on CGC's use of federal funds sought

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER



Magofna

Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan) has written to the Senate Standing Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare as well as the Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law seeking an oversight investigation into how the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center is using its federal funds.

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Gonzales optimistic, grateful with run for CNMI delegate



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Delegate candidate John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales watches the opening of the three-day 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada last Friday.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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CORRESPONDENT

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales is positive and grateful with his campaign as he

seeks the CNMI delegate seat in U.S. Congress this Nov. 5 general elections.

Gonzales, who is running as an independent, said over the weekend that many

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RACQUEL FLOYD

Docomo Pacific held a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Docomo Pacific CEO and president Christine Baleto, fourth from the left, yesterday to officially launch its call center. Baleto was joined by Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, fifth from the left, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), third from the left, and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), right.

Docomo Pacific unveils new call center

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
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CORRESPONDENT

Docomo Pacific held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open

its new call center yesterday morning at the company's parking lot in Gualo Rai.

The event was attended by Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang,

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and special assistant for Broad-

band Policy and Development Glen Hunter.

Docomo Pacific CEO and president Christine Baleto, being the first Chamorro to serve as the head of the

See **DOCOMO** on Page 4

Garapan Street Market temporarily relocates



By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
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CORRESPONDENT

A week after it returned, the Garapan Street Market will temporarily move from the Paseo De Marianas strip to Coral Tree Avenue starting this week due to ongoing construction, according to the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture.

During its soft opening last Aug. 29, a total of four

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Garapan Street Market held its soft opening last Aug. 29.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Tom Yum Restaurant resumed its operations last Friday at its new location in San Antonio, less than a month after moving from its old Garapan site.

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WORLD

The Justice Department announced criminal charges Tuesday against Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and other senior militants in connection with the Oct. 7, 2023, rampage in Israel.

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LIFE & STYLE

After watching eight seasons of the epic saga "Game of Thrones," fans can now enter what may be a competition on par with the battle for the Iron Throne: an auction of prized memorabilia from the HBO series.

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Local

Three NMC nursing graduates pass NCLEX

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Adrian Catagatan, Maile Aldrich, and Suah Sakisat have joined the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing in the United States. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry-level nursing practices correctly.

"I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Adrian, Maile, and Suah for successfully passing the NCLEX," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them excel in their careers as healthcare professionals."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan likewise congratulated the three on their achievements.

"Congratulations to Adrian, Maile, and Suah as our new registered nurses! All your



Catagatan



Aldrich



Sakisat

hard work has paid off, and now you can make a positive impact and change the lives of our community. We are proud of your achievements and excited for the difference you all will make!"

Catagatan, a 2024 NMC nursing graduate, pursued nursing to help provide quality care to the community.

"I deeply treasure my family and friends, and knowing that they are well and cared for is invaluable to me and brings me comfort. I pursued a nursing degree because I wanted to provide others with the same sense of security as I understand how much they value their loved ones well,"

Catagatan said.

Catagatan attributed his passage of the NCLEX to balancing studying and rest. "It's common for many to think that more hours of studying equate to a higher chance of passing the NCLEX. I have made this mistake many times, and I found myself to burn out easily. But when I started to incorporate breaks in between my study sessions and taking the weekends off from studying, I realized that I was in a better condition to learn."

Catagatan is currently looking into applying at CHCC.

Aldrich, a fellow 2024 Nursing graduate, looked to nursing as a way to contribute

to the greater community.

"I want to provide a bright future for myself and my family while contributing to the health and well-being of others in my community," Aldrich said.

When pursuing nursing and preparing for the NCLEX, Aldrich talked about how NMC helped her for the NCLEX. "NMC provided me with the resources and materials to be successful, and my instructors were instrumental in setting the foundation for what it means to be a nurse."

Aldrich is planning to apply at CHCC.

Having graduated this year with a nursing degree, Sakisat, pursued nursing for the range of opportunities it offers.

"Other than the fact that nursing is a very rewarding profession, it is also a very versatile profession as well. Nurses are able to work in many different work environments from hospitals, clinics, schools, or even from your home. This makes it easier for me to adjust to different family situations I may have in the future and allows me to spend more quality time with them," said Sakisat.

When giving advice to other NMC students planning to take the NCLEX, Sakisat emphasized the importance of test-taking strategies and mentally preparing for the exam.

"Understanding each question type and knowing how to approach and answer these

questions helped me be more confident in the answer choices that I was choosing. Also, being mentally prepared on the day of the exam and practicing relaxation techniques to get into a comfortable mindset was very important," said Sakisat.

"When I first stepped into the exam room, I felt that I could not think straight and could hear my heart pounding in my ears. Taking some deep breaths and following some relaxation techniques helped me get into my zone and focus on taking the test."

Sakisat is in the process of applying to CHCC.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. (PR)

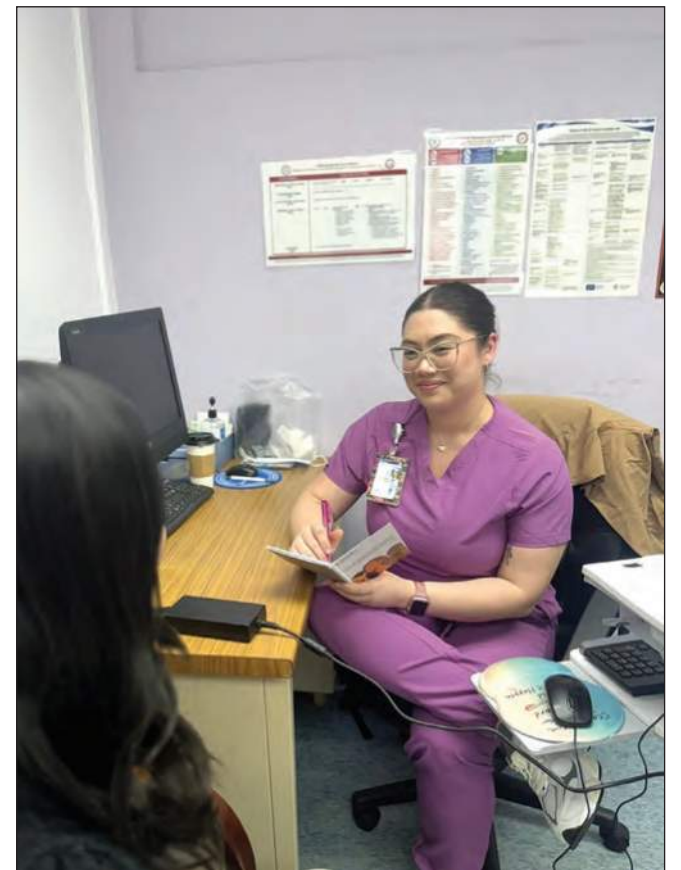
CHCC launches WISEWOMAN Program

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has launched the Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation Program in the CNMI through funding made available by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A woman's risk of heart disease, also known as cardiovascular disease, increases with age. Cardiovascular disease remains a leading health concern in the CNMI. The 2016 Non-Communicable Diseases & Risk Factor Hybrid Surveillance Report estimated that about a fourth of adults in the CNMI reported having hypertension. The WISEWOMAN Program provides cardiovascular disease risk factor assessments and support for healthy lifestyle change among participants aged 35-64 to reduce the risk for heart disease and stroke. Participants are referred to services that reduce CVD risks through improved diet, physical activity, tobacco cessation, and medication adherence support. The program was launched on Saipan on Aug. 15, 2024, through the CHCC Mobile Clinic at the Chalan Kanoa Youth Center, and in Tinian at the Tinian Health Center on Aug. 19, 2024. The program is scheduled to be launched on Rota at the Rota Health Center on Sept. 24, 2024. CHCC is projecting to fully launch the WISEWOMAN Project in all CHCC clinic settings by January 2025.

The program provides eligible women preventative screenings for heart disease and stroke such as:

- Body mass index assessments



CHCC

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is projecting to fully launch the WISEWOMAN Project in all CHCC clinic settings by January 2025.

- Blood pressure checks
- Tobacco use assessments
- Labs for A1c, glucose, and cholesterol
- Health coaching to manage hypertension
- Weekly progress check-ins
- Referrals to healthy behavior support services and community-based resources

Eligible women that sign up for the WISEWOMAN Program will receive a free Fitbit (while supplies last). The CHCC Public Health Non-Communicable Disease Programs offer other health services such as:

- Classes on how to better

manage diabetes

- Classes on how to quit vaping, smoking, chewing, or any nicotine use
- Classes on how to manage or prevent Chronic Kidney Disease
- Breast and cervical screening vouchers for free mammogram and pap tests

For more information on these services and the WISEWOMAN Program, contact the CHCC Public Health Non-Communicable Disease Programs at (670) 234-8951 ext. 2030. For more information follow us on social media @cnmichcc on Facebook and Instagram; visit <https://www.chcc.health>. (PR)

Call for Nominations

2024 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDS

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: SEPTEMBER 23

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- Research & Publication in the Humanities
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI History
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices
- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities



Scan the QR Code to access our online nomination form! Visit our website at <https://www.nmhcouncil.org/gha> to learn more about our nomination process.



2023 Governor's Humanities Awardees

NMTech expands educational horizons with new online programs

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Expanding technical education in the region, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute launched its latest suite of online programs.

The new programs became available last Aug. 27 and are tailored to meet the ever-growing demand for flexible and accessible education, empowering students to thrive in today's competitive job market.

In a press release, NMTech shared that its latest programs provide a comprehensive array of training and certification opportunities in some of the most sought-after fields. Whether someone is a beginner looking to build foundational skills or a seasoned professional seeking to enhance technical prowess, the courses offer something for everyone.

The new programs include a variety of disciplines, such as: Microsoft Word Associate, aimed at mastering word processing and document creation; Microsoft Excel Associate, focused on data organization, analysis, and presentation; Adobe Certified Professional Visual Design, which equips students with advanced visual design skills using Adobe's industry-

standard tools; and Adobe Certified Professional Graphic Design and Illustration, which will teach graphic design and illustration to create compelling visual content.

Courses for Intuit, such as Intuit Quick Books are also available, and they will provide expertise in financial record management and bookkeeping. Intuit Bookkeeping Professional, for instance, will offer in-depth training for a career in bookkeeping and financial management, while Intuit Personal Finance will cover personal finance principles and strategies for financial well-being.

The IT Specialist Database course is also available and it offers training in database management and administration. IT Specialist: Software Development, meanwhile, focuses on software development, coding, and application creation.

For its part, Autodesk Certified User-AutoCAD teaches the fundamentals of 2D and 3D design using AutoCAD, while Autodesk Certified User-Revit Imperial or Metric specializes in Revit for architectural design and construction modeling. IC3 Digital Literacy endeavors to enhance digital literacy skills, covering key concepts in computing

and internet usage.

"NMTI is committed to provide high-quality education that meets the evolving needs of our students and the workforce," said NMTech CEO Jodina Attao. "These new programs are designed to offer practical, real-world skills that will empower our students to excel in their careers."

Each course is designed with convenience in mind, delivered through an interactive online platform that allows students to learn at their own pace. Upon completion, participants will earn industry-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base.

try-recognized certifications, and career prospects. Enrollment is now open, boosting their employability.

and prospective students are encouraged to visit www.nmtechcnmi.org or contact NMTech's admissions office at (670) 235-6684 for more information.

NMTech is a leading provider of technical education in the region, dedicated to equipping students with the skills necessary for success in a variety of technical fields. With a strong emphasis on innovation and practical training, NMTech continues to shape the future workforce of the Northern Marianas.

Free photography seminar this Saturday



Acclaimed photographer Del Benson will be conducting a free photography seminar titled "The Art of Seeing" this Saturday, Sept. 7, at Spicy Thai in Puerto Rico. This unique workshop focuses on enhancing visual awareness and composition skills, promising to dramatically improve participants' photographic abilities.

"This seminar isn't about camera operations," Benson explains. "It's about training your eye to see the world differently. Whether you're using a smartphone or a professional camera, these skills will transform your photography."

Key seminar topics include:

- Composition techniques
- Lighting principles
- Basic editing concepts
- Miscellaneous photog-

raphy tips

The event welcomes photographers of all skill levels and equipment preferences. Participants are encouraged to bring either their smartphones or larger cameras, depending on their preference.

■ **Schedule:** 1pm—optional lunch buffet (\$15) 1:30pm—Seminar begins (free admission)

■ **Location:** Spicy Thai Restaurant in Puerto Rico

While the seminar is free, those wishing to enjoy the lunch buffet can do so for \$15. Attendees are welcome to bring friends and family members who might be interested in improving their photography skills.

For more information or to register, contact (670)285-4335. (PR)

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THE ISLAND'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Mendiola-Romolor appointed to NACDD board

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. congratulates Non-Communicable Disease Program administrator Amber Mendiola-Romolor on being appointed a new member of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors board.

NACDD's core membership is composed of the 59 state and territorial Health Department Chronic Disease

Directors and their staff who protect the health of the public through primary and secondary prevention efforts and work "upstream" on root causes of chronic conditions. In addition, NACDD unites 7,000 chronic disease professionals across the United States working in state, tribal, and territorial health depart-

ments, nonprofits, academia, and the private industry to promote health and to reduce the burden of chronic disease.

The Pacific Chronic Disease Council is a group of representatives from the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands. The council strives to bridge the gap in health disparities by reducing



Mendiola-Romolor

the chronic disease burden, mobilizing resources, and recognizing the uniqueness of our communities and its people.

The Pacific Chronic Disease Council has 10 members that represent their respective jurisdictions:

- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- America Samoa
- Guam
- Federated States of Mi-

cronesia

- Chuuk
- Kosrae
- Pohnpei
- Yap
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of the Marshall Islands

"I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. The faith and backing of my colleagues across the nation are deeply meaningful to me," Mendiola-Romolor stated. "I am excited about advocating for health equity and justice, not only for the CNMI, but for all Pacific Island communities in the region. It is truly humbling to be

able to continue serving my community and to contribute to the advancement of nationwide initiatives. The board of directors plays a vital role in shaping strategic direction and working towards fulfilling NACDD's mission, all with the aim of reducing the burden of chronic diseases across the nation," she added.

The NACDD's council develops input, feedback, and perspective on the policy, leadership, and management of coordinated chronic disease prevention and health promotion to address chronic non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands jurisdictions. **(PR)**

DOCOMO

From page 1

company, expressed her commitment to the CNMI and its culture and people.

"I am rooted in the love of our islands, our culture, and most especially our people today. It's the beginning of an exciting new chapter of rebuilding our business with our people, for our people. The future we have chartered is one brimming with hope and opportunity, an unwavering commitment to our island. As the new CEO, I am driven by a deep belief that we are truly better together. Today that belief comes to life as we launch our newly established call center operations."

Baleto added that it is a symbol of Docomo Pacific's dedication to bring their customers closer to the heart of the community as they will

continue to connect with the same friendly and familiar associates they have come to know and trust in their stores.

According to Baleto five of the 10 hired call center associates or agents were former Hyatt Regency Saipan employees who they recruited during the Department of Labor job fair last June. The call center workforce will be bringing valuable experience and a spirit of service.

Baleto commended her team who worked diligently to open the call center within a three-month timeframe.

"I would like to acknowledge our team who undertook a herculean effort to get this call center open when I made the request. I gave them three months and they delivered."

Docomo Pacific plans to expand its call center in the next couple of years, creating over 50 new jobs in the CNMI.

Apatang said in his message that Docomo Pacific opening its new call center is like an early Christmas present for the CNMI as it provides employment opportunities for the local people.

"We've been talking about this call center for a while and today it became a reality. On behalf of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and I, and all the people of the Commonwealth, thank you. *Si yu'us ma'asi* for opening up your doors in creating more opportunities for some of our people."

Brent DeLeon Guerrero, Docomo Pacific brand manager, served as the emcee of the ceremony and said that the event highlights the company's commitment to supporting local and small businesses.

He added that even the companies that provided refreshments for the event are 100% local, namely Tupu Cane Juice

and Ina's Kitchen.

Belato said in the interview that the call center is designed to cater to those who are seeking information on Docomo products and services. Docomo Pacific being the only quad player in the Marianas, offers mobile, fixed network which is the internet, cable, and desk phones.

She also mentioned that the company aims to establish a customer service operation that caters to a global clientele that's why their call center staff undergo extensive training to handle diverse customer issues and provide localized support.

Brent DeLeon Guerrero encouraged the community to apply, adding that their job openings will be posted on their social media and in the Docomo career center and applicants can apply online. He added that the call center agent position is entry-level, but more positions will soon be available.

COTA admin. office temporarily closed

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, under the Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor, Administrative Office will be closed from Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, through Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, as COTA undergoes the Federal Transit Administration: FY2024 State Management Review. The Administrative Office will reopen on

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

The Call-A-Ride-Saipan demand responsive shared ride program and Transit CNMI Blue Line 1B public transportation services shall remain open as regularly scheduled during this time. COTA appreciates your understanding and patience during this period. For questions or concerns, contact COTA's office at (670) 664-2682. **(PR)**

MARKET

From page 1

vendors—Changi Nori Kitchen, Chow Time, Kanto 10, and Kingfisher's Noni—were able to serve delicious food for the Thursday 5:30pm-10pm nighttime activity that also showcases cultural performances and shopping opportunities.

CCAC director Gloriana Teuira said the initial plan was to start the Garapan Street Market in the first week of Au-

gust. However, it was delayed due to various factors including the identification of a permanent spot for the event's power panels.

She said despite the short notice, they were able to secure vendors, deviating from the usual 2-3 months preparation time for an undertaking as big as the return of the Garapan Street Market.

Teuira said CCAC first received 11 applicants, but they had to meet specific requirements such as add-ons to their

business license and necessary permits such as sanitary permits and food handlers.

While CCAC originally aimed for six vendors, they eventually settled for four to enable them to adhere to the fire code safety requirement, which is 12 feet apart for vendors at the Paseo De Marianas strip.

Meanwhile, Tupu Cane Juice general manager Cameron Atalig, whose business is located at Paseo De Marianas, said they experienced a noticeable boost in sales due to the

return of the Garapan Street Market last week.

"We not only extended our hours but also debuted our new menu. It was a great way to connect with the community and invite them to sip nature's energy with us," said Atalig.

Meanwhile, the Garapan Street Market's second week since its return tonight will feature the following entertainment: Revolutionary at 6pm, Tahiti Nui at 6:45 pm, Ghasias Band at 7:45 pm, and Pacifica Dancers at 8:30pm.

PROBE

From page 1

Yesterday, Sen. Magofna sent out a letter to Senate Standing Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare chair Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law chair Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian) seeking an oversight investigation into how CHCC's Community Guidance Center is using its federal funds.

The request stems from allegations raised by CGC staff that they are being paid lower than what has been reported to federal agencies.

"I am writing to bring to your attention an email I re-

ceived on Aug. 29, 2024, from an anonymous individual seeking assistance from the Senate Standing Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare [and Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law] to conduct an oversight on CHCC's Community Guidance Center," said Magofna.

Magofna wrote that according to the allegations, CGC staff are concerned that if federal agencies are providing CGC a certain amount for staff salaries and are paying staff lower than reported to said federal partners, where is the excess funding going?

"The individual has raised the following allegations: 'I want to ask if you could look into CHCC and see how they

handle the federal funds that they receive for the community guidance center. They are claiming to the feds that they are paying us certain amount for our salary but in reality, we are getting paid way lower than what they claim. They always blame CHCC HR. Our annual salary amount has been approved by the federal partners, but CHCC still won't make the changes. Isn't that illegal to be reporting to the feds that they are paying the CGC staff a certain amount per annum but in reality, they are not? What are they doing with the money that they claim to be paying the CGC staff? Higher ups are always traveling also but when it comes for the frontliners at CGC to travel, they either reject the TA or

they have to tag along.'" the letter states.

Magofna expresses that it is imperative that the community is informed that when such allegations, issues, or concerns are raised, elected officials take them seriously and investigate them thoroughly to assure constituents that their grievances are not ignored or disregarded.

"In other words, their courage and bravery in raising such issues or concern does not fall on deaf ears. In my capacity as the vice chair of the Senate Standing Committee on HEW, I urge you to please investigate this matter promptly and take appropriate actions to address any discrepancies identified during the oversight process," said Magofna.

GONZALES

From page 1

people are actually reaching out a lot more this second time than he's running versus the first time that he ran for delegate in 2008.

"I'm just gracious, positive, and grateful," he said in an interview during the opening of the 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas.

Gonzales said he feels so good as the people are so responsive and just so nice and outreaching because they believe in his candidacy.

"I'm really reaching out, reinforcing with the plans that I have to help the people," he said.

Before coming to Las Vegas last week to "reconnect" with the people from Marianas who are staying in the states and watch the three-day Labor Day softball tournament, Gonzales was in California where his son, a newly sworn in officer of the U.S. Coast Guard, is stationed in Alameda.

Gonzales said when he goes back to Saipan this week, he will be doing some outreach as well as online campaign.

Gonzales said he believes there are 6,000 to 7,000 people from Marianas that are residing in the states.

He believes majority of them are children and about 2,000 to 3,000 have yet to register to vote in the coming CNMI elections.

Gonzales said many people

from the Marianas who are staying in the U.S. mainland, move from state to state.

He said for example, many were in California but then moved to Las Vegas as it was developing.

Gonzales said now it's congested in Las Vegas so maybe people are moving to elsewhere because of the cost of homes and higher cost of living.

"And now I know for a fact that many, many are moving from the West Coast, leaving you know, to Texas," he said.

Gonzales said the cost of a house in Texas is half less than in California, or half than the West Coast.

In formally announcing his candidacy last March, Gonzales said he will be building upon the successes and strategic network of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and leveraging the Covenant "in order to lobby for critical leadership support aimed at customizing legislation and U.S. federal policies and to carve out specific exemptions necessary to meet the CNMI's extenuating geographical, economic, and social circumstances.

The Covenant is the document that created the relationship between the CNMI and the United States.

Aside from Gonzales, the other four delegate candidates are James Rayphand, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, and House majority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

AFTER CHINESE ANGER, FRACTURING SHAKY ACCORD

Pacific leaders' summit erases mention of Taiwan

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Turmoil over China's push for influence in the South Pacific has overshadowed the region's most important diplomatic summit after a Pacific island leader apparently pledged to erase an affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the meeting from its closing statement, at Beijing's behest.

The Pacific Islands Forum—a group of 18 island nations, plus Australia and New Zealand—initially included a reassertion of the standing of self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, in a public communique Friday outlining leaders' agreements after their weeklong annual meeting. But it was then removed on Saturday.

Officials at the summit in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, did not explain why the statement had changed. But video posted by a news outlet late on Sunday appeared to show a Pacific leader assuring China's special envoy to the Pacific, Qian Bo, that the reference to Taiwan would be removed after Qian demanded it in remarks to reporters.

The document row highlights a fraught, largely private regional debate about China's role in the region that Pacific nations had sought to publicly quash ahead of the meeting. The chaotic end to the annual summit—at which member nations had emphasized regional unity and rejected major powers' jostling for influence in their affairs—shows how difficult it is for some of the world's tiniest nations to balance the demands of larger countries who see them as geopolitical pawns, analysts said.

"The ability of the (forum) to pursue increasingly demanding regional agendas ... and at the same time manage the geopolitical interests of external actors is clearly at risk," said Anna Powles, a professor at Massey University's Center for Defense and Security Studies.

The public display of China's influence-wielding as it denounced the summit's mention of Taiwan was "deeply troubling" and provoked questions about autonomy for the region's top diplomatic body, she added. In 2019, six Pacific nations recognized Taiwan as an independent democracy—a snub to Beijing—but Taipei's allies in the region have since dwindled to three.

The Pacific Islands Forum began in 1971 for leaders to coordinate responses to the issues confronting a remote, diverse region where individual nations hold little solo sway

on the global stage. Its leaders, from low-lying islands imperiled by rising seas, were at the forefront of urging action on climate change.

Annual meetings were not widely attended until the Pacific Ocean in recent years emerged as the site of an intense geopolitical contest for influence over waters, resources and political power. As Beijing wooed Pacific leaders with loans, diplomacy and security agreements, Western alarm about its foothold in the region grew, prompting a rapid expansion of attendance of forum summits.

This year, Pacific leaders sought to channel the global clamor toward their preferred topics—the climate change havoc and crises of debt, health and security, including fundraising for a Pacific-led climate and disaster resilience facility in Tonga—while warning major powers against overshadowing the summit with geopolitical squabbling.

"We don't want them to fight in our backyard here. Take that elsewhere," Baron Waqa, the forum's secretary-general and a former president of Nauru, told reporters in July.

For most of the five-day summit, an uneasy calm prevailed, at least in public, with superpowers making unusual overtures of cooperation to opponents.

As the forum's partner nations presented their offerings to Pacific leaders on Wednesday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said the United States and China had pledged to work together to find areas of cooperation on Pacific projects. In response, China's emissary, Qian, said Campbell's words were encouraging and that cooperation between Beijing and Washington was in the region's best interests—although those remarks were not recorded in a public version of his statement.

"It's a different approach, that's for sure," said Mihai Sora, director of the Pacific Islands Program at the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank, adding that in the past the United States and China had each cast the other as the region's aggressor. "I remain deeply skeptical about what potential there would be for any credible cooperation."

Still, it reflected an effort by superpowers to display new restraint. Even the announcement of a regional policing program, which Australia will fund to apparently counter China's offers to equip and train Pacific police, did not provoke rancor from Beijing.



Leaders pose for a photo at the Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, August 26, 2024.

"China welcomes all parties to make concerted efforts for the development and prosperity of the Pacific Island countries," said China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian when asked about the initiative Wednesday.

Campbell was later recorded on a reporter's microphone candidly telling Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that the United States had stepped aside in the Pacific policing matter to allow Australia to take the lead.

At the summit's final news conference, Pacific nations underlined health care and climate initiatives as their central concerns for the year ahead. Their final communique set out a new tiered structure for partner nations, who must now prove their genuine involvement with a number of Pacific nations to secure permission to attend the annual summit. It also included a sentence affirming the forum's 1992

agreement on Taiwan's standing with the organization.

That suggested leaders, who had spent Thursday in closed-door discussions, had privately agreed to allow Taiwan's ongoing attendance at the summit even though the new tiered structure might otherwise exclude it.

"Taiwan was allowed to be in Tonga and have meetings with its partners and that continues to be the understanding going forward," Surangel Whippis Jr, president of Palau, one of three Pacific nations to recognize Taiwan, told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The apparent assurance that Taiwan's attendance would continue unchanged enraged Beijing, which has intensified pressure on Taipei's remaining allies to sever ties. Qian told reporters on Friday that the sentence in the leaders' final statement "must be a mistake" and insisted a correction was required.

Soon after, the Pacific summit's communique was unlinked on its website. The next day, officials circulated a new document to reporters with the line affirming Taiwan's involvement removed—and no explanation for the change.

"The version as finalized does not change nor impact the decisions of the meeting, nor any standing decisions of the forum leaders," a forum spokesperson, Lisa Williams-Lahari, told the AP in a written statement.

On Sunday night, however, Radio New Zealand published footage taken in public by a reporter that showed Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown apparently telling the Chinese envoy, Qian, "we'll remove it," in reference to the document, as the pair shook hands. Brown did not immediately respond to AP's request for comment.

Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement supplied to the AP Monday that the communique did not jeopardize its position in the forum or remove its right to participate.

"Taiwan expresses the strongest condemnation to China's arrogant intervention and unreasonable behavior that undermines regional peace and stability," spokesperson Jeff Liu said.

The Solomon Islands, which severed diplomatic ties with Taipei in 2019 in favor of Beijing, will host the 2025 summit. Before then, the forum should "urgently develop guardrails to prevent further disruption and undermining of regional unity," Powles, the analyst, said.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-019

LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email vicente.deleon.guerrero@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of] FCD CN
the Petition for] CIVIL
the Change of] ACTION NO.
Name of:] 24-0349
]]
LyAnces Juanay] AMENDED
Dela Cruz Aldan] NOTICE OF
Petitioner] HEARING
]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 16, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

Ap The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Fight against families: States get federal judge to endanger mixed-status couples

Texas Federal Judge J. Campbell Barker, appointed by Donald Trump in 2019, has frozen a Biden administration policy that could have helped some half-million undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens get legal status. Hopefully, Barker's stay will not be staying.

Basically, these folks would already be eligible to receive permanent residency, if it weren't for the Catch-22 of having to leave the country to get it, triggering a re-entry ban. The policy would use a power called parole-in-place to give those without a criminal record who've been in the country for 10 years at least the ability to seek status without leaving. Naturally, 16 states led by the ever-zealous Texas sued, and got Barker to agree to stop it.

Why is anyone against this? And how does it harm those 16 states? The idea of keeping families together should not be controversial and it appeals to the sentiments expressed by vice presidential candidate JD Vance. Children need both of their parents and so efforts should be made to keep parents married and in a family unit. Yet, clearly, that does not extend to these families, where one of the spouses is an immigrant.

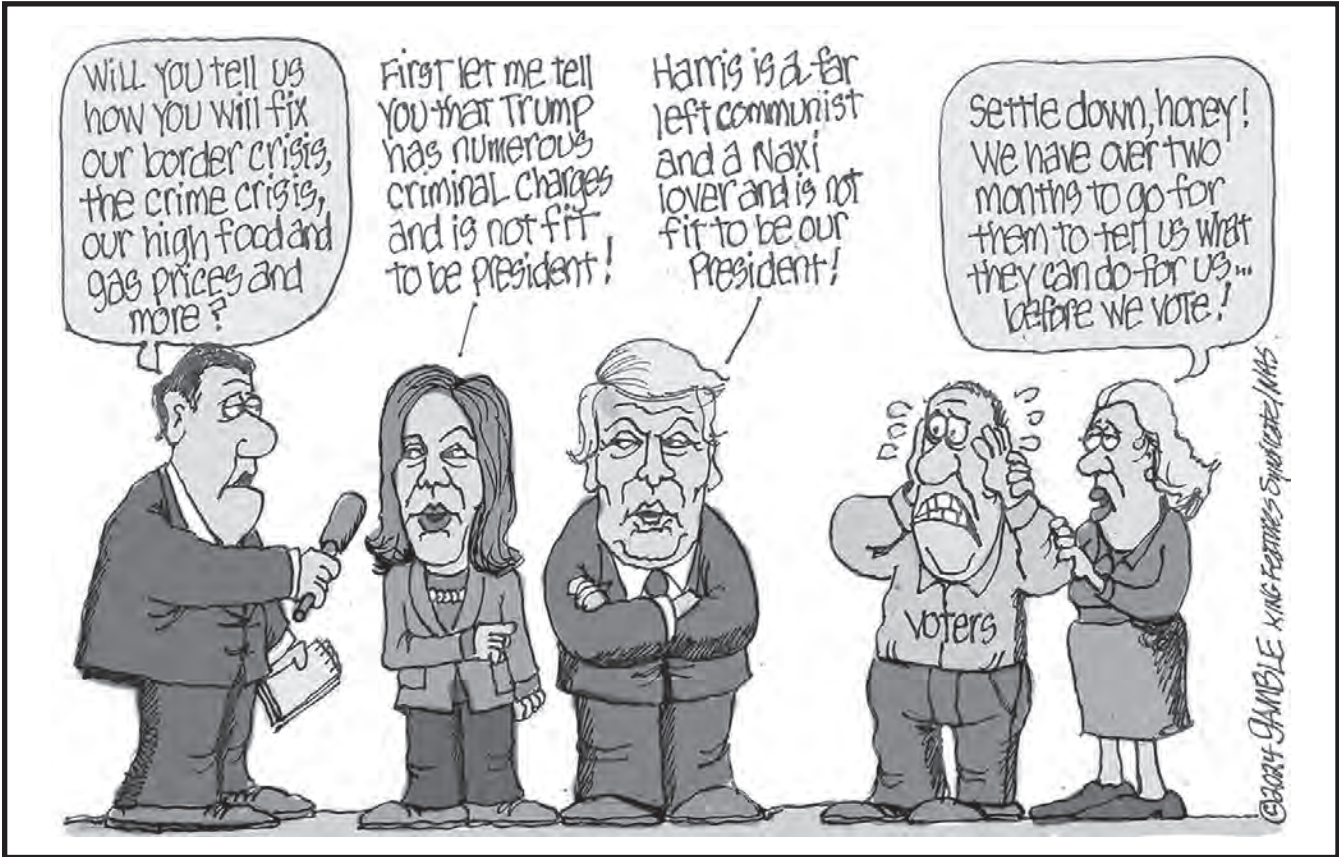
What these states want is to stop people who have long been living in and contributing to their own state economies, who have gotten married to citizens and often had citizen children, and who have a full-fledged legal pathway to status, to be permanently blocked from that path on a technicality. They want those people to lose out on a chance to retroactively comply with the law—something they're also supposedly very keen on, though perhaps only when it's some giant polluter or a white collar criminal who got caught tax cheating—and face the extreme consequence of exile.

This doesn't only hurt these people and families themselves, but the consequences spread out to the entire community. These individuals are working across crucial industries or creating jobs themselves as small business owners. If they were to suddenly be removed, that would cost jobs and expertise and put those families in precarious situations of just the type that these state officials love to grumble about; are they going to provide benefits and assistance to the families left practically destitute by their efforts? That's a good reason for Texas and other states to be in court fighting to support the Biden policy, not shut it down.

Is their point that parole-in-place isn't the right way to achieve this goal, that it should have been done with legislation? Well, it was Trump who killed the bipartisan Senate immigration package. Or are immigrants just best to be used as political pawns in an election year?

All this just puts the absurdity to the legal argument that the states will suffer some harm from this policy, particularly given that this argument is anchored on the premise that it will spur illegal immigration. We can't say we've spoken to any migrants with the nefarious plan of falling in love, getting married and, maybe, a decade later getting a permanent status out of it. This is a fiction to justify the opposition to the policy, opposition which is much more likely to cause actual harm to their state fabric.

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Why Trump's politicking at Arlington National Cemetery should disgust every American

Former President Donald Trump did something breathtakingly cynical, certainly immoral and probably illegal the other day.

In other words, it was Monday.

Trump used an appearance on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, a resting place for many who honorably served their country, to make a campaign video.

Trump was ostensibly at Arlington to commemorate the third anniversary of the killing of 13 American service members by a suicide bomber during the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan. He said the soldiers' family members, some of whom disparaged President Joe Biden at the Republican National Convention, invited him.

I have no doubt that's true. But even the grieving families of fallen soldiers do not have a right to trash Arlington's protocols.

The Army, which oversees the cemetery, forbids any sort of political activities on the grounds. It is, as the Trump campaign was informed, against federal law and Defense Department policy. The Washington Post reported that Pentagon officials were "deeply concerned" that Trump would turn the visit into a campaign stop but also wanted to accommodate him.

During the visit, a cemetery official tried to enforce the rules against outside cameras in Section 60, the area devoted chiefly to soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two Trump staffers physically pushed her out of the way, according to news reports.

The official declined to press charges because she feared retaliation from Trump supporters, according to an Army statement. Trump spokesman Steven Cheung promptly slamed her as "clearly suffering from a mental health episode."

Trump had smiled broadly and given a jarring thumbs-up as he stood at the grave of Marine Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, one of those killed in the bombing. He wasn't there just to pay his respects; he was there to exploit the tragedy that occurred at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate in 2021 by blaming it on Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who has soared in recent polls.

The frenzied withdrawal and terrible loss of life occurred on Biden's watch—as did the abandonment of at least 78,000 Afghans who worked for the U.S. government and continue to live there precariously.

Nonetheless, Trump crassly ignores his own role in the debacle. A deal he himself struck with the Taliban locked the United States into a withdrawal timeline. Military intelligence was profoundly mistaken about the Afghan government's ability to defend Kabul, which fell to the Taliban with lightning speed. There is enough blame to go around.

I called a dear friend whose parents are buried at Arlington. Her father was a Marine colonel and a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. At his funeral, he was given a 21-gun salute, and his procession included a riderless horse, empty boots in the

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**
Los Angeles Times



stirrups facing backward to symbolize a final look back at his troops and his loved ones.

"My father was a conservative guy, but he would have thought Trump was a pig," my friend told me. "He believed in honor, and if you are buried at Arlington, it is an honor. It is not something that should be ... (messed) with."

Trump has a history of demeaning military sacrifices and messing with honorable traditions. As president, he turned the White House into his personal political prop, using it as a backdrop for the launch of his failed 2020 reelection campaign.

Poor Ohio Sen. JD Vance, whose awkwardness on the campaign trail has turned him into a meme-worthy punch line. He has once again been put in the sorry position of trying to mop up after his running mate.

At a campaign rally in Wisconsin on Wednesday, an indignant Vance excoriated the media.

"You're acting like Donald Trump filmed a TV commercial at a grave site," said Vance, a Marine veteran. "He was there providing emotional support to a lot of brave Americans who lost loved ones they never should have lost, and there happened to be a camera there, and someone gave them permission to have that camera there."

As they say on social media, who's gonna tell him?

That very day, the Trump campaign released a video showing the former president at Arlington, laying flowers at a grave and posing for photos with the Gold Star families.

In a voice-over, Trump says, "We didn't lose one person in 18 months," a self-regarding and entirely bogus claim he's been making for the last few years. As Reuters reported in May 2022, if Trump was referring to the time period in which he negotiated the withdrawal agreement, 15 American troops suffered what the Defense Department called "hostile deaths" in Afghanistan. If he was referring to the last 18 months of his presidency, 12 members of the military died in Afghanistan.

None of this is likely to dissuade Trump's passionate supporters. But let's hope his creepy stunt will persuade the last undecided voters that he is truly, deeply unfit to be this country's commander in chief.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

All the ways heat harms is terrible for your health

When it comes to measuring the impacts of the climate crisis, we tend to fall upon two simple metrics: human fatalities and economic losses. These data points are extremely useful for understanding what we would be exposing ourselves to if we fail to reduce emissions, but they only capture part of the suffering extreme weather and collapsing ecosystems will bring.

Take, for instance, a recent study examining temperature-related mortality. Europe's biting cold tends to be deadlier than its heat. From 1991 to 2020, there were about eight times as many cold-related fatalities as those linked to heat. Our warming planet is set to shift that balance across the entire continent.

Heat-related deaths could triple from existing levels by 2100 if temperatures rise by 3C (5.4F)—which the world is on track for under current climate policies—to nearly 129,000 a year from about 44,000 a year. But the deaths, which will overwhelmingly occur in people over the age of 85, are just a small fraction of the health burden brought on by extreme heat.

As Madeleine Thomson, head of climate impacts and adaptation at Wellcome, a global charitable foundation supporting health research, said in response to the study: "Extreme heat kills but it also causes serious health harms." These ills won't just affect our elderly—but also the very youngest members of society and everyone else.

Research is increasingly highlighting the effects of excess warmth on pregnant women, for example. Growing a new human being is hard work, and the female body undergoes several physiological shifts to accommodate that, including a 40% increase in the amount of blood pumped through the body. These changes put pregnant women at greater risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Not only are those with child more vulnerable in the heat,

but exposure to high ambient temperatures has been linked to poor health outcomes for both mother and baby, such as increased incidences of miscarriages, stillbirths, preterm births, congenital defects, gestational diabetes, gestational hypertension and preeclampsia.

A study in India found that the risk of miscarriage doubled for those women who were exposed to extreme heat through their work. Women in developing countries are particularly vulnerable as they're more likely to be performing manual labor outside and have less access to cooling than those in more developed nations. But the implications affect everyone. Studies in high-income countries have shown about a 15% rise in the risk of premature birth and stillbirth during heatwaves. As Jane Hirst, an academic obstetrician at the George Institute for Global Health who contributed to the India study, told the BBC: "adverse effects (on pregnancies) can be seen at much lower temperatures in more temperate climates, such as the U.K."

There may also be long-term effects on babies. A 2024 systematic review of the limited existing research into the health and socioeconomic consequences in later life found that increased heat exposure during pregnancy could be linked to worse educational performances and an increased risk of heart disease and childhood asthma. The researchers, based at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, also saw connections to diminished mental health, including a greater risk of eating disorders and schizophrenia.

We're also starting to understand better how periods of high temperatures have been adversely affecting mental health in general. As my fellow columnist Lisa Jarvis has written, heat not only makes us all feel frazzled and irritable but exacerbates "common mood disorders like anxiety and depression as well as

By **LARA WILLIAMS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Lara Williams is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering climate change.



rarer conditions like schizophrenia and self-harming."

It's likely that we'll find more heat-health connections as global warming tightens its grip. A mysterious epidemic of kidney failure in Sri Lanka is likely attributable to extreme heat exposure, dehydration and pesticide-contaminated groundwater. As many as one in five residents in some hotspots there are affected by acute kidney damage or failure, with the condition often arising or progressing rapidly. A similar epidemic was noted among migrant laborers returning from the Gulf. Young men left home healthy and returned with kidney failure after being exposed to brutal heat at work. Researchers have started documenting kidney disease in manual workers in other hot countries, too.

The health impacts of extreme heat are already with us and stretch far beyond tragic, preventable deaths. Yet huge knowledge gaps exist to understand everything from the biological mechanisms underlying heat-related harms to effective solutions.

Many scientists have cited difficulties in getting funding for such research, due to its interdisciplinary nature, while the Rockefeller Foundation, a philanthropic medical research and arts funding organization, notes that only 2% of adaptation funding and 0.5% of overall climate funding is dedicated to improving health outcomes. That needs to change. After all, our health is our wealth, and climate change is already draining it.

How bringing back the woolly mammoth could save species that still walk the Earth

As more species are pushed to the brink of extinction, conservationists are responding to our biodiversity crisis in new and sometimes controversial ways. One such novel approach could be described as the mammoth in the room: "de-extinction" technology that has the potential to protect and restore species on the brink of extinction and, more provocatively, those that disappeared from the planet long ago.

We can avoid such innovation and the controversy that comes with it. But the reality is that many milestone moments in conservation have been contentious.

Take the California condor, whose population was down to 22 known individuals in 1982. At the time, taking all the animals out of the wild for a captive breeding program sparked outrage among conservation professionals and in local communities. Today, however, thanks to those efforts and subsequent reintroductions of the birds into the wild, their population exceeds 500. Now captive breeding programs are regularly used to maintain and restore a variety of threatened species.

Or consider conservationists' difficult decision in 1995 to relocate eight female mountain lions from Texas to infuse new genes into the population of Florida panthers, a subspecies of the puma. Only about 30 Florida panthers were left at the time, and inbreeding had rendered them susceptible to disease and other health problems. Although this genetic rescue effort was highly controversial at the time, it was also very successful, decreasing the effects of inbreeding and allowing the population to steadily grow. Today about 200 adult panthers live in southwest Florida, and the intervention is regarded as a model.

The use of assisted reproductive technology such as artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization to bolster dwindling species has been a more recent subject of debate within the conservation community. But since these tools were introduced, they have become standard among zoos' "insurance" populations of threatened species and in captive breeding programs aimed at reintroducing species into the wild.

Our organizations, the biotechnology company Colossal Biosciences and the conservation group Re:wild, recently announced a partnership to use de-extinction technology to protect and restore species on the brink of extinction. It is a powerful collaboration between an organization with extensive experience

in wildlife and ecosystem conservation and a company that is using gene editing and genetic engineering technology to make extinction a thing of the past.

Both Re:wild and Colossal want to save species that are going extinct now. But at the heart of Colossal's mission is a belief that the science to restore and recover species on the brink can be accelerated by moonshot projects such as reviving the mammoth or the dodo. This focus on de-extinction, or bringing back extinct species, is understandably a subject of vigorous debate.

So it's no wonder that our partnership caught some in the conservation community by surprise. Even internally, it took lots of thoughtful and nuanced discussion—involving often passionate and sometimes seemingly insurmountable differences—to align around shared goals.

In the end, even though Re:wild has reservations about whether the woolly mammoth and other extinct species should be returned to Earth, the organization will advise on the feasibility of such reintroductions because of the projects' potential to generate technology that could save hundreds of critically endangered species. We will work together to study the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of each reintroduction, working with local interests and a cross-section of the conservation community. With the world's sixth great extinction event upon us, we need every available tool to prevent extinctions and accelerate species restoration.

The conservation community has recovered species from the brink of extinction—some of which were down to a few individuals—but every one of those recoveries has been hard-fought. We will be able to restore critically endangered species much more quickly by combining Colossal's technology with proven approaches such as conservation breeding programs, translocations of endangered species populations, assisted reproductive technology, biobanking of threatened species' tissues and cells, and genetic rescue.

We are already seeing the benefits of Colossal's technology for threatened species. The tools and techniques developed for every effort to bring a species back from extinction will also benefit closely related species that still live.

The woolly mammoth project, for instance, has sequenced the genomes of both the Asian elephant and the African elephant; has developed induced pluripotent stem cells with the ability to differentiate into other types of elephant cells; and is acceler-



By **MATT JAMES and BARNEY LONG**

Los Angeles Times

Matt James is Colossal's chief animal officer. Barney Long is Re:wild's senior director of conservation strategies.

ating a cure for the deadly elephant herpes virus. Many extant marsupials will likewise benefit from the technology Colossal is developing to bring back the thylacine, an extinct carnivorous marsupial also known as the Tasmanian tiger or Tasmanian wolf. That includes the development of artificial pouches and synthetic milk, which will enable expanded conservation breeding programs and reintroduction efforts.

We're also using or planning to use this technology to protect and restore northern white rhinos, Sumatran rhinos, pink pigeons, Tasmanian devils, northern quolls (a small carnivorous marsupial) and many other species.

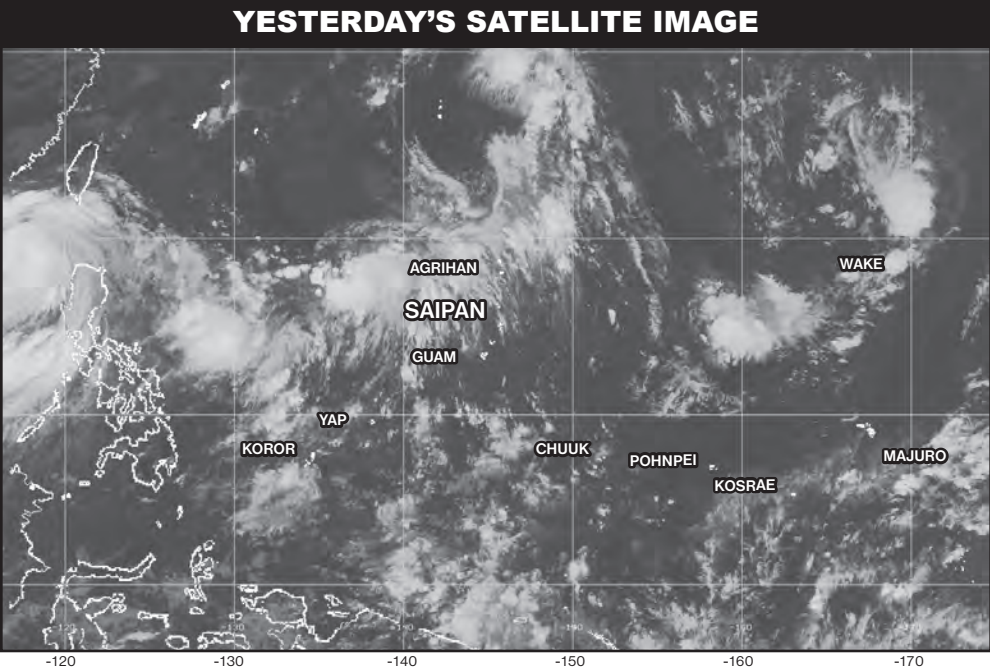
Not everyone agrees that a headline-grabbing de-extinction of the woolly mammoth would be beneficial to our planet. But it's hard to dismiss the project's capacity to create tools and technologies that can prevent countless species from going extinct in the first place.

Our partnership is also allowing us to tap into new sources of conservation funding that would not be available without the interest that de-extinction generates. Even though it will always be cheaper and easier to save a species from extinction than to bring it back, we still need more resources to combat the biodiversity crisis.

Conservation is not easy, and the extinction crisis has no single solution. With an estimated 12% of bird species, 26% of mammals, 31% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef-building corals and 41% of amphibians at risk, we need to consider every tool we have to secure the future of our planet and all the life on it. We look forward to the day de-extinction technology is commonly used to restore endangered species and we're considering the next conservation moonshot.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny	
87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A line of small cell showers are popping up over the Marianas. These showers are over the waters of Guam, Rota and Tinian. The showers are not very impressive. Otherwise in the the Marianas, showers are anticipated to be building over today and diminish over the night as a passing trough is expected to push through the region. Seas are expected to remain 2 to 4 feet and winds are expected to be light to gentle.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:30 AM	7:44 PM	-
Friday	8:15 AM	8:16 PM	-
Saturday	9:01 AM	8:51 PM	-
Sunday	9:49 AM	9:28 PM	-
Monday	10:40 AM	10:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°	
Beijing	Fair	81° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Fair	93° / 77°	
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 60°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	97° / 73°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 44°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°	
New York	Clear	74° / 59°	
Osaka	Rain	89° / 76°	
Paris	Rain/Thunder	76° / 63°	
Busan	Rain/Wind	76° / 73°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	87° / 67°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 70°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°	
Seoul	Sunny	90° / 71°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 74°	
Washington, DC	Fair	77° / 60°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:00 AM	Low Tide	0.78	
8:32 AM	High Tide	1.85	
3:07 PM	Low Tide	0.48	
9:10 PM	High Tide	1.84	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Tom Yum Restaurant moves south

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Tom Yum Restaurant resumed its operations last Friday at its new location in San Antonio, less than a month after moving from its old Garapan site.

An eyesore property across Pacific Island Club Saipan was rescued as Tom Yum rehabilitated the building after its lease contract ended on its former location.

According to PK Phommachanh, business consultant and general manager of Tom Yum, after the five-year lease in Garapan ended, he and Tom Yum owner Phannee Regan looked for a new place and they found an empty building located in a tourist area in the southern part of the island.

“We were looking for a location and we just saw how this was empty and we felt like we didn’t want tourists to look for something defunct. We want to show them that there was some liveliness in businesses running so we wanted to kind of close the gap of that,” said Phommachanh.

The move was also made to better serve their customers in the area since most of Tom Yum’s regulars live in Koblerville and San Antonio.

Tom Yum’s new space is the same as their former location—it has a 51-seating capacity and can accommodate up to 100 people. The venue still offers the same activities such as karaoke and electronic darts.

Phommachanh added that Tom Yum currently sponsors 10 electronic dart teams with most of the members living nearby. The restaurant also hosts Marianas Business Network meetings.

Tom Yum just recently partnered with Save the Music Foundation-CNMI’s Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition.

“They’re going to start to gear up their participants to go into audition. So, they’re using this as one of the venues on Wednesdays,” said Phommachanh.

Tom Yum’s dine-in or to-go combo tray for 4-5 people for \$20 is still being offered. The everyday lunch buffet from 11am to 2pm resumed last Monday and is priced at \$16 for 10 years old and above, \$8 for ages 4-9, and free for those below 4 years of age.

Tom Yum is a Thai restaurant that also offers American and Filipino dishes. They are open daily from 10am to 10pm. They accept bookings for any events or parties. For inquiries, call (670) 488-2963 or email phannee.unsa@gmail.com.



PHOTOS BY RACQUEL FLOYD
Tom Yum resumed its operations last Friday at their new location across Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio.



Tom Yum owner Phannee Regan, second left, with general manager PK Phommachanh, right, and waitstaff Miles Campita.



The everyday lunch buffet from 11am to 2pm resumed last Monday and is priced at \$16 for 10 years old and above, \$8 for ages 4-9, and free for those below 4 years of age.



The dine-in or to-go combo tray for 4-5 people is just \$20.



Tom Yum currently sponsors 10 dart teams with of most of the members living nearby.

Nation

RAISE TAXES ON THE RICH OR CUT THEM?

Harris, Trump differ on how to boost US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump is betting that Americans crave trillions of dollars in tax cuts—and that growth will be so fantastic that it’s not worth worrying about budget deficits.

In short, he’s hoping that most economic analyses of his ideas are dead wrong.

Vice President Kamala Harris believes that big corporations and the ultra-wealthy should pay more in taxes—and wants to use those revenues to help spur the construction of 3 million homes and offer tax breaks for parents.

She’s hoping to deliver on the types of policies that President Joe Biden has been unable to secure in a lasting way.

The two presidential nominees are using the week before their debate to sharpen their economic messages about who could do more for the middle class. Harris will discuss her policy plans Wednesday in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, while Trump will address the Economic Club of New York on Thursday.

The economy has historically been a dominant issue in presidential elections. In an August survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, Trump did narrowly better on the economy with 45% saying he would handle it better and 38% saying Harris would.

There are high stakes in this showdown because the winner of November’s election could rewrite much of the federal tax code next year, when parts of Trump’s 2017 tax cuts are set to expire.

A look at the candidates’ proposals:

DIFFERENT PITCHES TO THE MIDDLE-CLASS

Trump and Harris have different ways of trying to help the middle class.

The former Republican president sees tax cuts for businesses and the wealthy as essential for promoting more investment, with those who’ve previously advised him saying average growth would top 3%. Mind you, overall economic growth never hit 3% a year when Trump was president. But between 2018 and 2019, the median household income jumped by \$5,220 to an inflation-adjusted \$78,250, according to the Census Bureau.

“What I tell people all the time: The Trump policies were designed to lift middle-class wages, re-onshore and re-industrialize,” said Joseph LaVorgna, an economist who worked in the Trump White House. “The intention is to get wages higher.”

By contrast, Harris wants to upgrade the middle-class promise of home ownership and ease the high costs of parenthood. She also wants tax breaks for entrepreneurs. It’s a message meant to show that Harris can address the problem of prices as people are still recovering from inflation spiking to a four-decade high in 2022.

First-time homebuyers could get \$25,000 in down payment assistance that would be coupled with broader policies to encourage the construction of 3 million additional homes in four years. New parents could get a \$6,000 tax credit and an expanded child tax credit.

“When working- and middle-class Americans have the opportunity to earn more, to build a business, to buy a home, to climb the economic ladder, it strengthens our economy and helps us grow,” said Brian Nelson, a Harris adviser.

NO TAXES ON TIPS, SOCIAL SECURITY

Trump has proposed no taxes on tips paid to workers or Social Security income. Harris has embraced the idea of not taxing workers’ tips.

As Ernie Tedeschi at the Yale Budget Lab noted, excluding tips from taxes is unlikely to provide much of an economic boost even if some individuals feel better off. He noted that just 2.5% of workers receive tips and that many don’t earn enough money to owe income taxes to the federal government.

Trump would also exclude Social Security payments from taxation, which could cost \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. The risk is those taxes help fund Social Security. Without those revenues, the program would be unable to pay full benefits starting in 2033, or two years earlier than currently forecast, according to an analysis by Brendan Duke, senior direc-

tor of economic policy at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank.

TARIFFS

As much as Trump talks about tax cuts, he would also want to engage in a massive tax hike by charging higher tariffs on imports in order to grow jobs.

How much would the tariff be? No one really knows. Trump has proposed a broad tariff of 10%, but at an August event in North Carolina suggested it could be as high as 20%. Against Chinese products, he would like a tax of somewhere between 60% to 100%.

The Republican insists his tariffs wouldn’t jack up inflation, but the whole goal of the tax is to make imports more expensive so that more manufacturing occurs domestically. The Harris campaign says the middle class would face a higher tax burden, with the 20% tariff applied broadly costing a typical household \$4,000 annually.

The Trump campaign did not answer questions about how the tariffs would work. If the goal is to bring jobs back from overseas, the tariffs would presumably be phased in over time so that manufacturing jobs could return to the U.S. But if the goal is to raise revenues, then they would be implemented immediately.

TRUMP’S NOT AFRAID OF DEBT

It’s not clear that Trump could pay for his ambitious tax cuts.

He wants to extend the expiring provisions of his 2017 tax overhaul. He’s floated the idea of chopping the 21% corporate tax rate to 15%, in addition to no taxes on tips and Social Security income. The estimated price is close to \$6 trillion, but it could be higher. And the Congressional Budget Office already estimates \$22 trillion in deficits over the next decade without the tax overhaul being extended.

Growth would not appear to cover the price tag. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget surveyed economic analyses and found that Trump extending his tax cuts would have roughly no impact on overall growth over 10 years because of the additional debt.

World

IN CONNECTION WITH OCT. 7 MASSACRE IN ISRAEL

US charges Hamas leader and other militants

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department announced criminal charges Tuesday against Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and other senior militants in connection with the Oct. 7, 2023, rampage in Israel, marking the first effort by American law enforcement to formally call out the masterminds of the attack.

The seven-count criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City includes charges such as conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization resulting in death, conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals and conspiracy to finance terrorism. It also accuses Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah of providing financial support, weapons, including rockets, and military supplies to Hamas for use in attacks.

The impact of the case may be mostly symbolic given that Sinwar is believed to be hiding in tunnels in Gaza and the Justice Department says three of the six defendants are believed now to be dead. But officials say additional actions are expected as part of a broader effort to target a militant group that the U.S. designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997 and that over the decades has been linked to a series of deadly attacks on Israel, including suicide bombings.

The complaint was originally filed under seal in February to give the U.S. time to try to



Yahya Sinwar, head of Hamas in Gaza, greets his supporters during a meeting with leaders of Palestinian factions at his office in Gaza City, Wednesday, April 13, 2022

take into custody then-Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and other defendants, but it was unsealed Tuesday after Haniyeh's death in July and other developments in the region lessened the need for secrecy, the Justice Department said.

"The charges unsealed today are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a video statement. "These actions will not be our last."

The charges come as the

White House says it is developing a new cease-fire and hostage deal proposal with its Egyptian and Qatari counterparts to try to bring about an agreement between Israel and Hamas to end the nearly 11-month war in Gaza.

A U.S. official, who was not authorized to talk publicly about the case and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press there was no reason to believe the charges would affect the ongoing negotiations.

National security spokesman John Kirby said the recent "executions" of six hostages, including one American, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, by Hamas underscore "the sense of urgency" in the talks.

"We are investigating Hersh's murder, and each and every one of the brutal murders of Americans, as acts of terrorism," Garland said in the statement. "We will continue to support the whole of government effort to bring the Americans still

being held hostage home."

Sinwar was appointed the overall head of Hamas after the killing of Haniyeh in Iran and sits atop Israel's most-wanted list. He is believed to have spent most of the past 10 months living in tunnels under Gaza, and it is unclear how much contact he has with the outside world. He was a long-serving Palestinian prisoner freed in an exchange of the type that would be part of a cease-fire and hostage release deal.

Haniyeh was also charged.

Other Hamas leaders facing charges include Marwan Issa, deputy leader of Hamas' armed wing in Gaza, who helped plan last year's attack and who Israel says was killed when its fighter jets struck an underground compound in central Gaza in March; Khaled Mashaal, another Haniyeh deputy and a former leader of the group thought to be based in Qatar; Mohammed Deif, Hamas' longtime shad-

owy military leader who was thought to be killed in an Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza in July; and Lebanon-based Ali Baraka, Hamas' head of external relations.

The charges are "yet another tool" for the U.S. to respond to the threat Hamas poses to the U.S. and its ally Israel, said Merissa Khurma, Middle East program director at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington.

"If Sinwar is found and brought to justice for planning the October 7 attacks, it would be a significant win for the U.S. and for all those who lost loved ones," she said by email.

However, with Sinwar in hiding, Khurma doesn't see the charges adding more pressure on Hamas. She noted that the chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court sought arrest warrants for Hamas leaders like Sinwar and it didn't change their behavior or weaken them in the cease-fire negotiations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Human rights group implicates Venezuelan security forces in killings during post-election protests

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A global human rights watchdog on Wednesday implicated Venezuelan security forces and pro-government armed groups in killings that occurred during the protests that followed the country's disputed July presidential election. Human Rights Watch, in a report detailing repressive measures the government unleashed after the vote, asserted that the credible evidence gathered and analyzed by researchers, forensic pathologists and arms experts ties Venezuela's national guard and national police to some of the 24 killings that took place as people protested the outcome of the election. The organization also concluded that violent gangs aligned with the ruling party also "appear to be responsible" in some of the deaths. Twenty-three of those killed were protesters or bystanders and one was a member of the Bolivarian National Guard. "The repression we are seeing in Venezuela is shockingly brutal," Juanita Goebertus, the organization's director for the Americas, said in a statement. "Concerned governments need to take urgent steps to

ensure that people are able to peacefully protest and that their vote is respected."

Bus crashes into students and parents in eastern China, killing 11 and injuring 13, police say

BEIJING (AP)—A bus crashed into a group of students and their parents at a school in eastern China early Tuesday, killing 11 people and injuring 13, police said. The students and parents were at the gate of a middle school in Tai'an city in the eastern province of Shandong just before 7:30 a.m., the Dongping county police department said in a posting on social media. Six parents and five students were killed, it said. One of the injured was in serious condition while the others were listed as stable, the department said. The driver was in police custody and the incident was under investigation, it said. The bus was specially customized for transporting students, it said. It did not say who was responsible for operating the bus. Many schools contract out such services to private companies or individuals. School safety, including overloaded school buses and poorly designed buildings, has long been a problem in China.

Russian missiles blast Ukrainian military academy, hospital, killing more than 50

POLTAVA, Ukraine (AP)—Two ballistic missiles blasted a military academy and nearby hospital Tuesday in Ukraine, killing more than 50 people and wounding more than 200 others, Ukrainian officials said, in one of the deadliest Russian strikes since the war began.

The missiles tore into the heart of the Poltava Military Institute of Communication's main building, causing several stories to collapse. It didn't take long for the smell of smoke and word of the deadly strike to spread through the central-eastern town.

"People found themselves under the rubble. Many were saved," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video posted on his Telegram channel. He ordered an investigation.

Shattered bricks were visible inside the closed gates of the institution, which was

off-limits to the media, and small pools of blood could be seen just outside hours later. Field communications trucks were parked along the perimeter. Roads were covered in glass from shattered apartment windows.

"I heard explosions ... I was at home at that time. When I left the house, I realized that it was something evil and something bad," said Yevheniy Zemskyy, who arrived to volunteer his help. "I was worried about the children, the residents of Poltava. That's why we are here today to help our city in any way we can."

By Tuesday evening, the death toll stood at 51, according to the general prosecutor's office.

Filip Pronin, governor of the region that bears Poltava's name, announced on Telegram that 219 people were wounded. Up to 18

people may be buried under the rubble, he said.

Ten apartment buildings were damaged, and more than 150 people donated blood, Pronin said.

He called it "a great tragedy" for the region and all of Ukraine, and announced three days of mourning starting Wednesday.

The academy trains officers in communications and electronics, as well as drone operators, honing some of the most valued skills in a war where both sides are fighting for control of the electronic battlefield.

"The enemy certainly must answer for all (its) crimes against humanity," Pronin wrote on Telegram.

The Kremlin offered no immediate comment on the strike. It was not clear whether the dead and wounded were limited to Ukrainian

military personnel, such as signal corps cadets, or if they included civilians.

Since it embarked on its full-scale invasion in early 2022, the Russian military has repeatedly used missiles to smash civilian targets, sometimes killing scores of people in a single attack.

Some of the deadliest such assaults included a 2022 airstrike on a theater in Mariupol that killed hundreds of civilians sheltering in the basement and a strike that same year on the train station in Kramatorsk that killed 61. Apartment buildings, markets and shopping centers have also been targeted.

Poltava is about 350 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Kyiv, on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border.

Life & Style

FROM JON SNOW’S SWORD TO DRAGON SKULLS

Hundreds of ‘Game of Thrones’ props are up for auction

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

After watching eight seasons of the epic saga “Game of Thrones,” fans can now enter what may be a competition on par with the battle for the Iron Throne: an auction of prized memorabilia from the HBO series.

Fans can now bid on a slew of costumes, props, set pieces and memorabilia from the hit show that ended in 2019. More than 2,000 items—including a melted version of the coveted Iron Throne—distributed across 900 lots will be on the auction block in October through Heritage Auctions.

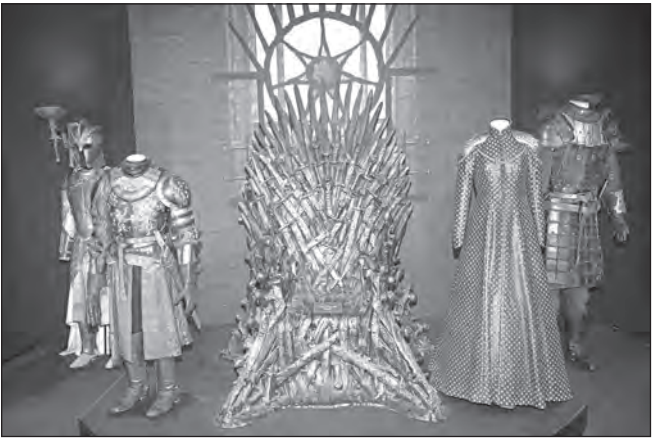
The starting bids range from \$500 to \$20,000 for items as iconic as Jaime Lannister’s full suit of armor and sword to props as granular as prosthetic teeth used for the White Walkers.

Other notable items include Daenerys Targaryen’s memorable cloaks, coats and leather ensembles (some that feature dragon chokers and accents) worn by Emilia Clarke, Jon Snow’s notorious Longclaw sword wielded by Kit Harington, and the Hand of the Queen Pin donned by Peter Dinklage as Tyrion Lannister. Even items that didn’t boast much screen time, like the

bell wielded during Cersei Lannister’s walk of shame or bloodstained garb from the infamous Red Wedding, are expected to draw fans’ attention during bidding.

Jay Roewe, HBO’s senior vice president of global incentives and production planning, said the auction—a chance for fans to “grab a piece of history”—speaks to the staying power the series has had five years after its finale.

“‘Game of Thrones’ was a zeitgeist moment in our culture. It was a zeitgeist moment in high-end television. It was a zeitgeist moment in terms of HBO,” he said in an



AP
The Iron Throne and costumes on display during the launch of The Game of Thrones Touring Exhibition at the Titanic Exhibition centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

sheer scale of the auction required months of collaboration with HBO and countless hours of research and planning to organize, said Joe Maddalena, the executive vice president of Heritage Auctions.

Maddalena wanted to ensure fans and collectors didn’t feel like there were any “glaring holes” in the collection by including a wide variety of characters’ costumes and props, displayed in a 750-page catalog. There are even multiples of crucial items like Arya Stark’s rapier Needle, of which there were several versions throughout the series’ run.

The intricate nature and craftsmanship of the costumes and props are part of what make the show so memorable, Maddalena, a fan himself, said. Emmy-winning costume designer Michele Clapton has been praised since the series’ start for the detailed and intentional designs that fueled storylines. The catalog features interviews with Clapton, showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss and several of the cast members commenting on the episode-specific usage and significance of hundreds of the items. Maddalena called this kind of access and information “uncharted territory” in the auction world.

interview with The Associated Press. “This is something we all grew up with. It’s impacted every single one of our lives. It’s impact-

ed the culture, and ‘Game of Thrones’ has meant something to every single person.”

Although the series started in 2011 and several items in the auction date back to then, they have not been “collecting dust,” Roewe said. HBO had been carefully preserving thousands of props, costumes and set pieces since the series began for use on potential spinoffs or sequels. With “House of The Dragon” having recently completed its second season and other projects firmly in development—while others have been discarded—Roewe said the studio now knows what they’ll need to hold on to and what they can part ways with.

“These items have been curated and taken care of since we finished filming. They are the quality that they were when we finished filming, and we’ve had people working on them for years to keep them in shape,” he said. “We don’t need them anymore. It’s time to finally open it up to the world.”

Beyond the preservation and quality of the items, the

Could Oasis reunion come early?

The Oasis reunion could come earlier than expected.

The Britpop-era band ended a 15-year hiatus last week by announcing a tour of the British Isles next summer, with 17 gigs selling out on Saturday following a scramble for tickets by Oasis fans.

However, Liam and Noel Gallagher, the once-feuding brothers who are the face of Oasis, could be on the stage together way before then if a Saudi boxing promoter gets his own way.

Liam is slated to perform some hits at Wembley Stadium in London on Sept. 21 ahead of the world heavyweight title fight between Anthony Joshua and Daniel Dubois, when more than 90,000 spectators are set to attend.

Turki Alalshikh, the Saudi advisor who organizes boxing events for the kingdom, said Monday he wants Noel to be at Wembley, too.

“It will be something amazing if we get them together,” the chairman of Saudi Arabia’s General Entertainment Authority said in an interview with British radio station talk-SPORT. “We will try, we will try. Why not?”

Oasis’ representatives didn’t immediately respond when contacted by The Associated Press.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has become a major player in sports, enticing top soccer players like Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the kingdom, setting up a breakaway golf series, and also being the host to many high-



AP
Liam Gallagher performs at the Reading Music Festival, England on Aug. 29, 2021, left, and Noel Gallagher performs at the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, on June 25, 2022.

profile boxing fights by offering lucrative purses.

Online ticket sites strained under demand for Oasis’ first shows for 15 years, with prices starting at about 74 pounds (just under \$100) and

rising to a 506-pound (\$666) package that includes a pre-show party and merchandise. All tickets sold out.

Some tickets are still available for the Joshua-Dubois fight. (AP)

Mother-in-law’s tardy apology gets no response

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law and I had words five years ago. Two years ago, I wrote him a letter of apology and told him it was always “family first.” My daughter confirmed he received the letter.

They recently had their fourth child. We haven’t seen their first since he was 2 or the second since she was born, and we’ve seen the third only once. I don’t know how to repair this situation. My daughter and I chat only when her husband is not around. She’s a police officer, and I don’t want to cause her any stress that could affect her on the job. He has blocked me on social media as well as my phone calls. What can I do?

SORRY MOTHER-IN-LAW IN THE EAST

DEAR SORRY: That must have been some argument you had with your son-in-law. What took you three years to apologize? If he no longer wants anything to do with you, no one can force him, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t be able to see the children when he’s not around. If you haven’t already suggested this to your daughter, give it a try.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old woman with a very supportive husband. I love him dearly, but I have some concerns. We have no children although we tried for years. Then I found out I have PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome). I can still have

a child, but now, because of my age, a bad back and a bad knee, I have kind of given up. My husband and I are overweight, though I am trying to lose weight. It’s hard. I also suffer from depression. Am I doing the right thing by giving up and putting myself first?

STRUGGLING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STRUGGLING: It is important to put yourself first. Before deciding whether to bring a child into this world, you need to get yourself back in shape physically and emotionally. Once that’s done, you will be in a better position to decide whether you are equal to the responsibilities of motherhood.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have known “Mona” for 25 years and thought we were friends. She bought some patio furniture from me but still owes me \$100. When I tried to contact her about it, she blocked me. I wanted to post this on Facebook without saying her name, but I’m taking the high road.

We’ve never had arguments, and I don’t understand her behavior. Mona is the one always saying, “I love you” and “I’m praying for you,” and then she pulls this? She has lied to me in the past, but I never called her on it because it didn’t matter to me. What are your thoughts?

TURNING POINT IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR TURNING POINT: When you first realized that Mona was lying to you, you SHOULD have called her on it and revised your opinion of her. Mona appears to be not only a hypocrite but also a user. Be glad the lesson you have learned has cost you only \$100 because it could have cost you more. As to my thoughts, I think you should stay far away from Mona and find friends who understand that friendship is reciprocal.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

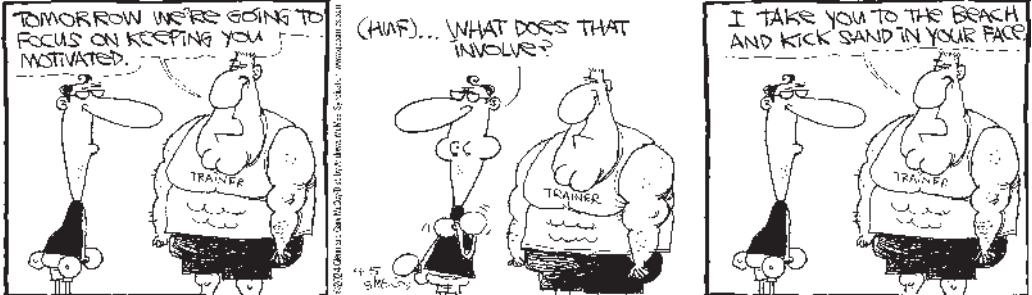


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Graham, 35; Rose McGowan, 51; Michael Keaton, 73; Claudette Colvin, 85. Happy Birthday: Slow down, smell the flowers, take a moment to relax and remember what life is about. It's necessary to reduce excess, spend more time with loved ones and reassess what's next. Change begins with you; ignoring your habits, health and overall well-being will make you vulnerable. Take notes, correct what's failing you and embrace the future optimistically. Sustainability comes from good lifestyle choices. Your numbers are 8, 19, 21, 24, 30, 36, 45.

to get what you want. Add flair and detail to whatever you do, and let your work and performance lead the way. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let your actions lead the way. Take the initiative to be a leader, and present what you offer through gestures instead of words. Thoughts, followed by actions, will have the best impact on how others respond and will open doors to new beginnings. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Turn a negative experience into a positive, and you'll find it easier to open doors to more significant opportunities. Learn from what transpires and differentiate between outdated, current and futuristic ideas. Use your imagination to create something that captivates and entices those you approach. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spread love to neighbors, friends and family, and let them know you are there for them. Your outpouring of kindness and generosity will lead to new connections that benefit your goal. What you put out, you will get back tenfold. Romance is on the rise. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep personal information private. Listening will be in your best interest. Knowing what others want or are thinking will help you make better choices and more suitable offers. Sharing a common interest or experience with someone will bring you closer together and enhance your chance to advance. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Participate in events that allow you to show your strengths. Your go-getter attitude will make the competition reluctant to fight back and your teammates enthusiastic to support your leadership. Strive for perfection, initiate high standards and continue until you are satisfied with your results. Romance is favored. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stifle your emotions, gather the facts and sit tight until the time is right for you to make your next move. Look for a unique way

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anger set in when action is necessary. Stop waiting for someone else to do things for you. Size up situations and make things happen. Initiate a move, and you'll impact how situations unfold. Take control of your emotional and physical well-being. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be consistent; if you keep changing your mind, you'll face opposition and lose the right to choose. Be pragmatic; sum up costs, emotional wear and tear, and sustainability, and you'll know what to do next. Life is only complex when you invite drama and indecisiveness into your orb. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to let foolishness or excess become your disadvantage. Discipline will be necessary to avoid falling behind. Say no to temptation, and surround yourself with those who set a good example. Don't let life bring you down; rise above and use your assets to forge ahead. Birthdays Baby: You are meticulous, opportunistic and insightful. You are encouraging and intelligent.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday. Yesterday's Answer: 7 4 8 9 1 6 5 2 3 3 2 1 8 5 7 9 6 4 9 5 6 4 3 2 1 8 7 4 3 2 6 8 5 7 1 9 8 1 7 3 4 9 6 5 2 6 9 5 7 2 1 4 3 8 1 6 3 2 9 4 8 7 5 2 7 4 5 6 8 3 9 1 5 8 9 1 7 3 2 4 6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET. HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD. THE SUPPLY CHAIN Solution: 9 letters L E T N E M P O L E V E D P T L E U L A V S T O C K T N R E E Y E N O M Y S A V E E A O G S T O R E K S A T K T N M D D U G O L D V T C R W S A E U U S N P R I C E A O P C L D C B T I F O R P M R O M O P D T U A T L E N Y K R E N P E S R S I E A G L S T U G G L A E A I N E B A O A R I E I A T N P N A M O U T O S E V N A N I Y E B G R I D E D E I I I P A P S L C O N D A R S L T T F P M S E N E M T E S E R V I C E L R S V F A C T O R D E K N A R Y

Navarro's first Grand Slam semifinal will be against Sabalenka



NEW YORK
(AP)—Emma Navarro's first Grand

Slam semifinal will come at the U.S. Open against Aryna Sabalenka, someone trying to win her second major trophy of the year and third overall.

Navarro, an American who is seeded 13th, used a stunning turnaround to grab the last six games of her quarterfinal against Paula Badosa for a 6-2, 7-5 victory at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday, following up her upset of defending champion Coco Gauff.

"Sometimes you're out in the court, and you can kind of picture yourself playing a third set. When I was out there, I didn't picture myself playing a third set," despite being down 5-1 in the second, Navarro said. "I felt like ... I could come back and do it in two."

Sure did.

There was no such drama in No. 2 Sabalenka's 6-1, 6-2 win against No. 7 Zheng Qinwen, the gold medalist at the Paris Olympics last month, in a rematch of Sabalenka's victory in the Australian Open final.

With Roger Federer in the stands, attending the U.S. Open for the first time since his retirement, Sabalenka displayed a typically powerful performance to get into the semifinals in New York for the fourth year in a row. In 2023, she was the runner-up to Gauff.

Sabalenka said she saw Federer in the crowd and figured



Emma Navarro, of the United States, reacts after defeating Paula Badosa, of Spain, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, in New York.

he was there to watch Frances Tiafoe and Grigor Dimitrov in the match that followed hers.

"But still, I was like, OK, I have to play my best tennis so he enjoys it. I have to show my skills, you know, slice skills, come to the net and all that stuff," Sabalenka,

a 26-year-old from Belarus who's known more for her power, said with a laugh.

She is trying to become the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to win the hard-court major titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open. Sabalenka defeated

Zheng in January for a second consecutive title at Melbourne Park.

"I just think the next time I play against her maybe I should hold a rally better and play a little bit more relaxed," Zheng said. "Because today obviously I entered into the

match with a lot of nerves."

The opponents in the other women's semifinal will be decided on Wednesday, when No. 1 Iga Swiatek plays No. 6 Jessica Pegula, and No. 22 Beatriz Haddad Maia takes on unseeded Karolina Muchova.

In the men's quarterfinals Tuesday, No. 12 Taylor Fritz of the U.S. earned his first berth in the final four of a major, beating 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Fritz had been 0-4 in Grand Slam quarterfinals but finally broke through against Zverev, the No. 4 seed he also defeated in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

"I've had a lot of looks at quarterfinals over the last couple of years and today just felt different," Fritz said. "I really felt like it was my time to take it a step further."

Tiafoe gave the Americans a third semifinalist when Grigor Dimitrov stopped playing because of an injury in the fourth set. Tiafoe was leading 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 4-1 and will play the 12th-seeded Fritz in Friday's semis, guaranteeing the U.S. a men's finalist in its Grand Slam tournament for the first time since 2006.

Navarro was three points from having to go to a third set against Badosa but won the next four points to stay alive, starting a stretch in which she captured 24 of the match's last 28 points.

"Things weren't looking great there in the second set, but just tried to be really tough, stick in there, make her hit one

more ball," Navarro said. "I felt like if I could scrap out a few longer points, maybe put some pressure on her, I felt like I could come back and maybe close it out in two sets. Happy with how I was able to do that."

Navarro had never even won a match in the main draw of her home major before this year.

Badosa described herself as a "disaster" while dealing with the pressure of trying to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I never had the momentum in this match. I played four or five games OK. It was 5-1, but I never felt myself on the court," Badosa said. "I lost, I don't know, 20 points almost in a row. It's very weird for me because I'm quite a consistent player, so I wasn't expecting that either."

Navarro also beat Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon before losing to eventual runner-up Jasmine Paolini in the next round, a 6-2, 6-1 rout in less than an hour.

But the 2021 NCAA singles champion for Virginia was ready for this matchup between New York natives, jumping on Badosa to win the first three games, then seizing the opening Badosa gave her late.

Navarro became the sixth player in the last 40 years to reach the U.S. Open semis without a previous main-draw victory in the tournament, a list that includes recent champions Bianca Andreescu in 2019 and Emma Raducanu in 2021.

Federer back at US Open as a fan after speaking about Sinner's 'tricky' doping case

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Federer thinks Jannik Sinner's doping case raises questions about whether the current No. 1-ranked tennis player should have been allowed to continue competing until he was absolved of intentionally using an anabolic steroid he tested positive for twice in March.

"It's not something we want to see in our sport, these types of news, regardless if he did something or not. Or any player did. It's just noise that we don't want. I understand the frustration of: Has he been treated the same as others? And I think this is where it comes down to. We all trust pretty much at the end, he didn't do anything," Federer said Tuesday in an appearance on the "Today" show to promote a book of photos of him. "But the inconsistency, potentially, that he didn't have to sit out while they were not 100 percent sure what was going on—I think that's the question here that needs to be answered."

Hours later Tuesday night, Federer received a warm ovation from spectators in Arthur Ashe Stadium when he was introduced to the crowd during the second set of the U.S. Open quarterfinal between Aryna Sabalenka and Zheng Qinwen.

Federer smiled and waved as he was shown on the videoboards in the arena.

It was the 20-time Grand Slam champion's first visit to the venue since he stopped competing. Federer announced his retirement in 2022; he played his last official match at Wimbledon the year before.

He is the last man to win consecutive titles at the U.S. Open, collecting five in a row from 2004 to 2008.

Several top players have been asked about Sinner, who is scheduled to face 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev in the Grand Slam tournament's quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Rafael Nadal told a Spanish



Tennis great Roger Federer waves to the crowd during the quarterfinal match between Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, and Zheng Qinwen, of China, during the U.S. Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, in New York.

television show on Monday he doesn't think Sinner received preferential treatment.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency said on Aug. 20

that it was determined that the banned performance-enhancer inadvertently entered Sinner's system through a massage from his physiotherapist, and

that is why the player was not suspended.

Asked about the matter in New York before the U.S. Open began, Novak Djokov-

ic said he gets why some tennis players question whether there's a double standard in the sport.

"It's a tricky situation and it's the nightmare of every athlete and team, to have these allegations and these problems," Federer said, adding: "We need to trust the process as well of everyone involved."

Federer said he spoke recently with Nadal, his longtime on-court rival and off-court friend, who is 38 and has played sparingly the last two seasons because of injuries, including a hip operation last year. He is sitting out the U.S. Open.

There are questions about whether Nadal, who has won 22 Grand Slam trophies, will return to the tour.

"He can do whatever he wants," Federer said. "He's been one of the most iconic tennis players we've ever had in our sport. ... I just hope he can go out on his terms and the way he wants to."

Orioles hand the White Sox their 109th loss



BALTIMORE

(AP)—Cade Povich struck out 10 while pitching into the eighth inning, and the Baltimore Orioles took a big early lead on their way to a 9-0 victory over the White Sox on Tuesday night, sending Chicago to its 12th consecutive loss.

The White Sox dropped to 31-109 and became the first team since 1900 with at least three losing streaks of 12 games in the same season, according to Sportradar. The 1889 Louisville Colonels and 1899 Cleveland Spiders also did it.

Chicago was shut out of the 16th time, is 11 defeats shy of tying the 1962 New York Mets for the most losses since 1900 and is on pace to finish 36-126.

NATIONALS 6, MARLINS 2

(AP)—Keibert Ruiz was a triple shy of the cycle, Jacob Young also had three hits and Washington beat Miami.

Patrick Corbin continued his recent stretch of solid starts with 5 2/3 innings of two-run ball and Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer for the Nationals, who are 8-0 against the Marlins this season after going 6-26 against their NL East opponent the previous two seasons.

Corbin (5-12) allowed seven hits and matched a season-high with eight strikeouts. The left-hander won his third consecutive start after going 2-12 in his previous 25 outings.

BRAVES 3, ROCKIES 0

(AP)—Chris Sale reached 200 strikeouts for the first time since 2019 and earned the 16th win of his comeback season, pitching seven strong innings to lead Atlanta past Colorado.

Sale (16-3) earned his sixth straight win. He has gone 15 straight starts allowing no more than three earned runs—looking very much like the pitcher who made the All-Star Game and finished near the top of AL Cy Young Award balloting for seven consecutive seasons.

Sale allowed six hits and fanned nine to push his season total to 206, his most since he had 219 with the Red Sox before a series of injuries derailed his career. He became the first left-hander in Braves franchise history to post 200 Ks.

Raisel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save in 31 chances, extending his scoreless streak to 22 1/3 innings.

METS 7, RED SOX 2

NEW YORK (AP)—David



Baltimore Orioles right fielder Austin Slater makes a diving catch to get out Chicago White Sox's Lenyn Sosa during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, in Baltimore.

Peterson struck out a career-high 11 on his 29th birthday and Francisco Lindor drove in three runs as the New York Mets beat slumping Boston for their sixth straight victory.

Lindor launched his 30th homer and added a pivotal RBI double, drawing another chorus of "MVP! MVP!" chants from the Citi Field crowd. Pete Alonso and Mark Vientos also went deep for the Mets, who remained a half-game behind Atlanta for the final NL wild card. New York has won 13 of 18 overall.

Vientos greeted Justin Slaten with a leadoff homer in the seventh after Lindor's two-run shot in the third was the lone Mets hit off starter Kutter Crawford (8-13), who whiffed eight in six innings.

After reliever Reed Garrett worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth to preserve a one-run lead, Lindor laced an RBI double to make it 4-2 in the bottom half. Brandon Nimmo followed with a sacrifice fly and Alonso connected for a two-run homer, his 31st longball of the season.

Peterson (9-1) pitched six splendid innings, allowing one run while lowering his ERA to 2.75 and winning his fourth consecutive decision. All six hits off the left-hander were singles—many of them coming on soft contact.

RAYS 2, TWINS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jeffrey Springs pitched a season-high six innings, Logan Driscoll hit a run-scoring single in his big league debut, and Tampa Bay Rays beat Minnesota.

Springs (2-2) permitted one run and four hits in his sev-

enth start since returning from elbow surgery. He struck out four and walked two.

Edwin Uceta struck two in a row after allowing consecutive singles to start the ninth. He was replaced by Garrett Cleavinger, who earned his fifth save in six chances when he retired pinch-hitter Christian Vázquez on a grounder to shortstop.

Driscoll put the Rays up 2-1 with his hit during a two-run fourth against David Festa (2-5), coming on his second at-bat.

Carlos Santana homered for the Twins, who hold the second AL wild card.

PIRATES 5, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Paul Skenes pitched five effective innings while struggling with his location, and Pittsburgh handed the Chicago Cubs another tough loss.

Skenes worked out of bases-loaded jams in the first two innings. The rookie right-hander allowed four hits and walked four, but he struck out six.

After Skenes (9-2) departed, Colin Holderman, Carmen Mlodzinski and David Bednar combined for four innings of one-hit ball.

PHILLIES 10, BLUE JAYS 9

TORONTO (AP)—Kyle Schwarber's third homer of the game was a go-ahead, three-run drive in the ninth inning, and Philadelphia rallied past Toronto after allowing six runs in the first.

Schwarber hit his 12th lead-off homer of the season and went deep again in the fourth before his blast with no outs in the ninth on the ninth pitch

he saw from Chad Green (4-5), a 96 mph fastball. Right fielder George Springer barely moved in reaction to Schwarber's 426-foot line drive that reached the second deck for his 31st homer of the season.

Schwarber became the first Phillies player to have two three-homer games in a season and has three such games in his career. He finished 5 for 6 with six RBIs and came within a triple of the cycle, adding a double in the third and an RBI single in the seventh.

Vladimir Guerrero went 4 for 5 with a two-run homer for Toronto, which led 6-1 after one and knocked Phillies starter Tyler Phillips out of the game after two-thirds of an inning. Phillips gave up six runs on eight hits, including two-run homers by Daulton Varsho and Addison Barger.

Orion Kerkering (4-2) pitched a scoreless eighth. Matt Strahm, the seventh Phillies pitcher, gave up Leo Jiménez's homer in the ninth but closed it out for his second save in eight chances.

GUARDIANS 7, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—No. 9 hitter Brayan Rocchio drove in four runs and Cleveland beat Kansas City extending the Royals' losing streak to a season-high seven.

Since tying Cleveland for the AL Central lead on Aug. 27, the Royals (76-65) have dropped 5 1/2 games behind the Guardians (80-59), who have won five of six. Kansas City maintained a 4 1/2-game lead for the final AL wild card.

Cleveland first baseman

Josh Naylor left for a pinch runner after singling in the eighth inning because of lower back tightness.

Steven Kwan had a two-run single for the Guardians and Kyle Manzardo had three hits.

Tanner Bibee (11-6) allowed one run and two hits in six innings—just the 39th time a Cleveland starter pitched six or more innings. He is 7-3 with a 2.71 ERA in 14 road starts, and the Guardians are 20-7 in his outings this year.

CARDINALS 7, BREWERS 4, 12 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Michael Siani hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the 12th inning, and St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Siani came to the plate after a wild pitch by Elvis Peguero (7-4) put runners on second and third. He lined an opposite-field single into left field to give the Cardinals a 6-4 lead.

Siani then stole second and advanced to third on catcher William Contreras' throwing error, setting up a sacrifice fly by Alec Bursleson.

Ryan Helsley (7-4) pitched two innings for the win, striking out four. The All-Star closer was going for his 43rd save before Willy Adames hit a two-out RBI double in the 11th for Milwaukee.

Siani nearly made an outstanding diving catch on Adames' liner to center, but the ball squirted out of his glove as his right arm got twisted in the outfield grass. The Cardinals challenged the call and the ruling was upheld.

RANGERS 7, YANKEES 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Wyatt Langford hit a game-ending grand slam off All-Star closer Clay Holmes to give Texas a win over the Yankees and drop New York out of the AL East lead.

Langford hit the first walk-off slam by a Rangers rookie, sending Holmes (2-5) to his major league-high 11th blown save in 40 chances. Texas overcame a 4-1, eighth-inning deficit.

Carson Kelly had a one-out single in the ninth, and Josh Smith and Marcus Semien followed with walks as Holmes threw just 12 of 25 pitches for strikes. Langford then pulled a full-count slider 407 feet to left for his 10th homer this season.

New York (80-59) fell a half-game behind Baltimore (81-59) for the division lead and the best record in the American League.

ATHLETICS 3,

MARINERS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Seth Brown homered in the fourth inning and hit a game-ending single in the ninth that led Oakland over Seattle for their second straight walk-off win.

With the score 2-2, JJ Bleday walked with one out in the ninth against Trent Thornton (3-3). Shea Langeliers singled and Brown capped a seven-pitch at-bat by grounding a single past the outstretched glove of second baseman Jorge Polanco and into center.

Seattle has lost four straight and is 5 1/2 games back for the last AL wild card.

DODGERS 6, ANGELS 2, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI triple in his first regular-season game back at Angel Stadium, and he scored on Mookie Betts' three-run homer in the 10th inning of the Los Angeles Dodgers' victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Ohtani went 1 for 4 with his tying triple in the third inning after the two-way superstar received a warm welcome back to the stadium where he excelled for the Angels over the past six years.

The Dodgers already led 3-2 in the 10th on Miguel Rojas' RBI single before the Angels intentionally walked their former superstar slugger to get to Betts, who blasted the next pitch from Roansy Contreras (2-4) over the fence in left.

Ohtani and Betts, who drove in four runs, celebrated at home plate before the major league-leading Dodgers finished off their 12th win in 15 games.

Michael Kopech (5-8) pitched the ninth for the Dodgers.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, GIANTS 7

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer in the first and a solo drive in the fifth to move within one of 300 for his career, and Arizona held off San Francisco for their seventh straight road win.

Matt Chapman homered in the sixth and Mike Yastrzemski connected to spark a four-run eighth for the Giants. San Francisco threatened against Ryan Thompson, who gave up RBI singles to Jerar Encarnacion and Patrick Bailey.

Justin Martinez relieved and surrendered a run-scoring single to Marco Luciano, freshly up from the minors, before retiring Luis Matos on a called third strike. Martinez allowed Yastrzemski's leadoff single in the ninth then a one-out RBI double to Heliot Ramos before striking out Encarnacion to close it out for his eighth save—with the tying and go-ahead runs aboard.

Chiefs seek 1st Super Bowl 3-peat after 8 previous back-to-back champs fell short

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer



Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs will try to do what Tom Brady, Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw couldn't during their Hall of Fame careers.

After winning back-to-back Super Bowls, Mahomes and the Chiefs now are aiming to become the first team ever to win three straight. Kansas City heads into the season as the favorite to win it all, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

But history is against the Chiefs. The eight other repeat Super Bowl champions all fell short with none even making it to the Super Bowl. Three lost in the conference title game, two lost in the divisional round and three others missed the playoffs entirely.

It's been more than two decades since any team three-peated in the

NFL, NBA, NHL or Major League Baseball.

The Los Angeles Lakers were the last to do it in any of those leagues, winning the NBA Finals from 2000-02.

The New York Yankees were the last baseball team to do it from 1998-2000 and the New York Islanders the last in the NHL from 1980-83.

The last team to win three straight NFL titles was the Green Bay Packers, who won the final championship before the Super Bowl era in the 1965 season before winning the first two Super Bowls. The Packers also won three straight titles from 1929-31 before there was a post-season in the NFL.

Here's a look at how past teams looking to win three straight Super Bowls fared:

1968 Green Bay Packers
Coach Vince Lombardi stepped down following the 1967 season

when Green Bay won its second straight Super Bowl and fifth NFL title in a seven-year span.

Phil Bengtson took over and inherited a roster that still had several future Hall of Famers including Bart Starr, Forrest Gregg, Willie Davis, Ray Nitschke and Herb Adderley.

But age and the coaching change caught up to Green Bay and the Packers finished 6-7-1 and missed the playoffs.

1974 Miami Dolphins
Coach Don Shula's Dolphins followed up the perfect 1972 season with another Super Bowl title the following season. Miami finished 11-3 in the regular season to win the AFC East but were one-and-done in a memorable playoff game against the Oakland Raiders.

The Raiders got revenge from a 1973 AFC title game loss in the divisional round with a 28-26 win. In the closing seconds, Ken Stabler

tossed a desperation heave to the end zone while being dragged down and Clarence Davis somehow caught the 8-yard pass in a "Sea of Hands" between three Miami defenders for the game-winning TD.

1976 Pittsburgh Steelers
The Steelers followed Miami's back-to-back titles with two of their own, marking the third repeat champs in the first 10 Super Bowls.

Pittsburgh had knocked off the Raiders in the AFC title game on the way to both titles but couldn't pull off a third against John Madden's crew.

The Steelers overcame a 1-4 start to the season and an injury to QB Terry Bradshaw to make it to the playoffs behind a dominant defense and running game. But backs Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier got hurt in the divisional round and Pittsburgh had little chance against the Raiders, losing 24-7.

1980 Pittsburgh Steelers
Pittsburgh repeated again in 1978-79 but age finally caught up to coach Chuck Noll's squad in 1980 as the dominant Steel Curtain defense took a big step back.

That led to a 9-7 record and the end of an eight-year dynasty that featured four Super Bowl titles and two other trips to the conference title game.

1990 San Francisco 49ers
The Niners probably came closest to the threepeat, going 14-2 with the best record in the NFL after winning it all under coach Bill Walsh in 1988 and George Seifert in 1989. The coaching change did little to slow down a roster led by Hall of Famers like Montana, Jerry Rice and Ronnie Lott.

San Francisco made it to the NFC title game and were minutes away from a return to the Super Bowl with a lead and the ball against the New York Giants. But with 2:36 to play, Erik Howard knocked the ball out of Roger Craig's hands and Lawrence Taylor recovered at the Giants 43.

New York then marched 33 yards and won it 15-13 on Matt Bahr's fifth field goal of the game on the final play.

670

From page 16

Vegas was a big win for our 670 Magas Babes. It was only this May that the players tossed the idea and went full throttle to hold fundraisers in June, July, and August. This team's relentless spirit to raise funds also translates to their passion and drive for the game of softball. I cannot say enough about how committed and determined these ladies are. They are everyday people—working women, moms, and even grandmothers—who all share a common love of softball and a desire to promote healthy and responsible living," he said.

When asked what the goal was of the team and if they achieved it, he said that getting to Vegas in the first place and doing their very best was

the number one goal. "I can tell you without hesitation that they did exactly that," said Demapan. "These ladies did everything they could to raise the funds they needed to make their trip possible. And when we got there, they immediately turned on their competitive mode with batting cage practice on Thursday evening, even though they could've taken the opportunity to visit the many attractions of Las Vegas. We fell one run short of winning the coveted championship title, but this experience for the ladies, coach Paul Salalila, and myself, has given us the greater rewards of appreciating life and fostering and even greater spirit of being exactly who we are—a softball family team. That, in my opinion, makes us champions in our book. And for [this] relentless group of lady ballers, they just wrote their own chapter in

their HERstory books."

For co-founder/president Erlinda Naputi, she expressed her sincere gratitude to everyone who was involved in making their dream of playing in the stateside tournament a reality.

"We may have placed second in the 2024 CNMI Labor Day Tournament, but the hard work, passion, friendship, and memories we created together will be cherished forever. A chapter in our books will be filled with heartwarming stories to share with our children, grandchildren, and family. The legacy we built as a team surpasses any championship title. It is called family!" she said.

The team then acknowledged and thanked the community and the following sponsors for their support:

■ Platinum sponsors: Magas Corp., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Oh My Grill!, Office of Speaker Edmund

Villagomez, Office of Rep. Roy Ada, Office of Rep. Diego Camacho, Office of Rep. Marissa Flores, Office of Sen. Karl King-Nabors, and 23rd Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

■ Gold sponsors: JEM Company, Ltd., Joeten Motors, Office of Rep. TJ Manglona, and Office of Rep. BJ Attao.

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SKOBA

From page 16

one more and handed the championship to Skoba, 7-8.

Skoba included Ping Santos, Tony Salas, R.J. Joe, Brian Camacho, Nate Camacho, Eli Aughenbaugh, Foru Kintol, Jerald Cabrera, Zack Tudela, Thorn Sablan, Pete Tenorio, and Jonah Flores.

Pound Town was made up of Ben Jones Jr., Nokki Saralu, Marc Iguel, Darion Jones, Vince Torres, Jordan Suel, Luis Iguel, Irvin Saralu, Dave Jones, Watz Taisakan, Jared Ayuyu, Mike Iguel, Nosh Palacios, and J.R. Suel.

The 10 men's teams include 4KUNI, Bat-titude, Blue Jays, Team

Luta (Rota), Parre' Pack, Pound Town, Skoba, Sons of San Jose (Tinian), Mamaww, and Titang.

Results of the women's division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Tony Salas, committee member of the tourney said of the final round teams, "Pound Town is a great team which consists of strictly family and close friends. It was a hard-fought game. Rain started toward the fifth inning so it added another challenge to an already close game. [The] game came down to the very last play and Skoba eventually came out victorious."

As for the Rota and Tinian teams that came out to join the inaugural tourney, Salas said, "We were really fortunate to have two teams

from neighboring islands join in on the festivities. Team Luta's dugout was all good vibes all throughout the weekend. They played hard and gave it their all from start to finish."

"Sons of San Jose was filled with high energy and competitiveness no matter who they played or what the score was. The guys from Tinian were ready for battle every game," he said. "The fact that we got a team from Tinian and Rota was such a blessing. It made our tournament even more special because we had teams from other islands."

He then said, "We are already excited for next year."

The sponsors of the tournament include Rep Malcom Omar (Ind-Saipan); MARPAC and Guy Pudney; Senate President Edith DeLeon

Guerrero (D-Saipan); Taste Town (Laurese Kileleman Mettao); John Oliver Gonzales; Kimberlyn King-Hinds; Saipan Mayor's Office; Vinnie Sablan; Saipan Shipping Co.; Juan Santiago; Melissa Litulimar and company; Cathy Salas and company; Rep. Jonthan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan); Rep Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan); Rep John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan); Rep Manny Gregory Castro (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Diego Camacho (Ind-Saipan); House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Saipan); Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan); Juan and Lucy Aldan; Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan); Rep Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan); Stormy Salas; Tracy Del Rosario, and Rose Del Rosario.

1999 Denver Broncos
Denver's bid for three straight titles never really had a chance with John Elway retiring after winning it all following the 1998 season. Brian Griese took over as starter for coach Mike Shanahan but couldn't replicate Elway's success. Compounding the problem, reigning MVP Terrell Davis tore his ACL in Week 4 and missed the rest of the season as Denver went 6-10 and missed the playoffs.

2005 New England Patriots
The Patriots won three of four titles in Tom Brady's first four seasons as starter but took a step back after winning it all in 2004. New England stumbled its way to a 4-4 start and never really found a groove. The Patriots did win a division title with a 10-6 record—and beat Jacksonville in the wild-card round. But they lost 27-13 to Denver the following week when Champ Bailey intercepted a pass from Brady in the end zone and returned it 100 yards to the 1 to set up a TD that made it 17-6.

5K

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In the men's 50-54 age group, Daniel Dilse clocked in first at 25:47. Second was Ferdinand Santos at 28:58, and third was Gregory Retsinas at 30:31. In the women's division it was just Jennifer Retsinas at 33:20 and Leonora Abuy at 36:27.

In the men's 55-59 age group, Ronaldo Quindoza was the lone runner who came in at 31:51. In the women's division, Miriam Dilse was first at 32:55, while second was Kim Church at 38:41, and third was Lun Jian Hua at 43 minutes flat.

In the 65+ age group, there were only men runners and it was led by Steve Pixley with a time of 25:24 followed by barefoot runner Changwan

Jang at 29:04.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked their sponsors Cha Cafe, Atkins Kroll Saipan, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, The Water Company, the Office of House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, the Office of Vice Speaker Joel Camacho, the Office of Rep. Thomas John Manglona, and the Office of Rep. Malcom Omar.

He also thanked their volunteers, race staff, partners: Northern Marianas Athletics, the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, HD Weightlifting Academy, Saipan Southern High School Interact Club, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Interact Club. And, he thanked *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* for the coverage.



Navarro's first
Grand Slam
semifinal will
be against
Sabalenka
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Chiefs seek 1st
Super Bowl 3-peat
after 8 previous
back-to-back
champs fell short
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Champion team Skoba poses for a group photo with their championship trophy as rain drizzles during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Runner-up Pound Town poses for a group photo with their trophy as rain drizzles during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Skoba beats up Pound Town for men's title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The torrential morning rain that drenched Saipan last Sunday finally cleared up to give way to Labor Day festivities.

When the baseball fields finally became playable, Skoba put in the work until late into the night and beat up Pound Town, in a close 8-7 men's division finals of the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Skoba's third inning score-rush was the difference in the game as Pound Town tried to get something going in the last inning for a last-minute rally.

Skoba led 1-0 after the second inning when Foru Kintol scored. Pound Town then came out guns blazing at the top of the third when they

scored five runs by Nosh Palacios, J.R. Suel, Ben Jones Jr., Marc Iguel, and Darion Jones, for a 5-1 lead.

Then, Skoba erupted with a seven-run third inning to lead, 8-5. Consecutive runners on base led to seven straight runs pushed across to home plate by Jonah Flores, Ping Santos, Tony Salas, R.J. Joe, Brian Camacho, Nate Camacho, and Eli Aughenbaugh.

Pound Town then went on a hunt for more runs and tacked one in the sixth to inch closer, 6-8. In the final inning, however, they came up short as they scored just

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5K Fun Run age group winners announced

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Besides the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Half Marathon Top 3 men/women and age group winners, the concurrent 5K Fun Run Top 3 men/women and age group winners were announced as well.

Both the half marathon and the 5K Fun Run were held last Saturday just in time for Labor Day weekend.

The 5K route was from the former Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot and headed north, with the turnaround at the Pacific Trading Co.

Age groups of the U18, 19-39, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 65+ were awarded as well.

In the U18 men's division,



LEIGH GASES

Participants of the Run Saipan 5K Fun Run dash out of the start line at the former Hyatt Regency Saipan Club Elan parking lot last Saturday.

Samuel Zhu finished first with a time of 20:24, followed by Michael Miller at 21:23. Victor Neil Santos was third at 22:37. The women's division was led by Aubrey White with a time of 26:24, second was Brooklyn Jones with a time of 26:59, and Faith Arriola was third at 28 minutes flat.

In the men's 19-39 age group, Chris Zemple came in first at 30:31. Second was Merrick McDonald who clocked in at 30:31, and Ariel Lapuz was third at 31:27. The women's division was dominated by Sherri Borja at 33:01. Second was Saori Okuma at 33:11, and Yuhe Fang came in

third at 44:30.

In the women's 35-39 age group, Dianne Mallari clocked in first at 25:24, followed by Kimberly White at 40:07, while Bhek Osorio was third at 44:51.

In the men's 40-44 age group, Adam Walsh sprinted into first place with a time of 22:01, followed by Christopher Racine at 25:34. Third was Greg Arriola with a time of 42:59. Robin Spaeth led the women's division at 29:16. Kathy Ruszala came in second with 29:23, and Pamela Walsh was third at 31:22.

In the men's 45-49 age group, Ajani Burrell was the fastest at 26:34. Second was Mark McDonald at 30:31, while Brad Ruszala was third at 38:35. In the women's division, it was just Christine Cho at 39:05.

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670 MĀGĀS Babes clinches 2nd in LV Labor Day tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

For the first time, a women's softball team from Saipan—670 MĀGĀS Babes—participated in the 2024 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament in the U.S. mainland, which was in its 19th edition this year and held at Las Vegas, Nevada.

The tourney ran on Labor Day weekend from Aug. 30 to Sep. 1 at Sunset Park, with 670 MĀGĀS Babes clinching second place after falling by just one run, 6-7, in their blis-

tering hot championship game against LMFAO last Sunday.

The 670 MĀGĀS Babes held the lead throughout most of the game and entered the bottom of the seventh inning with a razor thin lead of 6-4. LMFAO, a truly skilled team plus home-team advantage on their side, took advantage of a couple of fielding errors. Then, won by one run via a walkoff base on ball to claim the championship, 7-6.

LMFAO, a team that consisted of players from different states, was undefeated, and 670 MĀGĀS Babes took

them on just 10 minutes after beating Hafa Tribe, 28-5, in the semis.

In the round-robin match-up last Saturday, the 670 MĀGĀS Babes suffered their first loss to LMFAO, 9-10, then won against Hafa Tribe again, 18-7.

670 MĀGĀS Babes' roster included co-founder/co-captain Erlinda Naputi and Pauline Camacho, TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, Edilynn Benjamin, Franica Masga, Tani Masga, Louisa Moolang, Rita Taitano, Maribel Igitol, Jocelyn Torres, Catalina Dela Cruz, Emy Oiterong Sablan, Rachel Salalila,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place 670 MĀGĀS Babes poses for a group photo during the 2024 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament at Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Almina Deleon Guerrero, Aria Taitano, June Camacho, and May Cabrera.

The officials included manager Martin Naputi, assistant manager/acting Las Vegas tournament manager Angel

Demapan, head coach Bill Camacho, coach Nate Torres, and coach/acting head coach for the Las Vegas tournament Paul Salalila.

For 19 years, the tournament has been initiated by a

handful of people from the CNMI living in the U.S. in an effort to bring together the CNMI community from different states during Labor Day weekend.

The tournament has grown so big that in the men's masters division, Saipan's Team Sufa also flew out and participated.

For manager Angel Demapan, he said the experience was beyond measure, while the competition was fierce.

"This was a historic moment for women's softball in Saipan given that it was the first ever representation for a Saipan-based women's team at the stateside tournament. Honestly, just getting to Las

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